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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a CUC petition to raise power fees so it could comply with court-ordered projects?

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## INSIDE

### NATION



One World Trade Center is named the tallest skyscraper in the United States. **► PAGE 17**

### ASIA



Rice warehouse is looted in the Philippines amid aid shortages. **► PAGE 18**

### LIFE & STYLE



Alec Baldwin says his experience with a stalker was nightmarish. **► PAGE 21**

Health corporation's receivables reach \$36M. **PAGE 2**  
Store's container van burglarized. **PAGE 2**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The House Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations made technical amendments to Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) resolution, this time asking Congress to "eliminate" instead of "hold indefinitely" a provision giving a path to improved immigration status for long-term, legal aliens in the CNMI that's in pending national immigration reform bills. **See BILLS on Page 4**

## House extends solidarity with PH

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

House floor leader Ralph S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan) pre-filed a resolution yesterday expressing "sincere condolences to and solidarity with the people of the Philippines" in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan that authorities say has claimed some 2,000 lives. The death toll from the Nov. 8 super typhoon could still go up, with some saying it could be 10,000.

"The people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands joins the entire Filipino nation in praying for

**See HOUSE on Page 4**

## CUC delays rate petition for water, wastewater

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has withdrawn its rate hike proposal for water and wastewater, but pressed ahead with a proposed rate adjustment for power users to fund various projects, among other

new proposals.

**» Still seeks nod for power rate hike, other new proposals**

The agency amended its petition on Friday, Nov. 8.

According to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, it is not reasonable to seek for water and wastewater adjustments when the agency's master plan

**See CUC on Page 4**

ONLY 4 OF 7 COMMITTEE MEMBERS SIGN OFF ON REPORT

## 'Eliminate CNMI provision in 2 national immigration bills'



### OPEN HOUSE

A resident, right, asks a military representative last night about the impacts of the U.S. military's latest proposed activities within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Study Area, including increased levels of weapons use on Farallon de Medinilla, amphibious vehicle landing exercises on Tinian beaches, and training on Saipan's Marpi and Rota's airport. Some two dozen residents showed up at the open house public meeting held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

### IN PLAN TO LEASE MARPI LANDS FOR NEW HOTEL

## E-Land's MRI, Tan Holdings on 'short list'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

South Korea giant E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. and Tan Holdings are still in the running to lease a total of 99,005 square meters of public lands in Marpi to develop a new hotel or hotels with at least 200 rooms each.

MRI and Tan Holdings made it to a "short list," besting three other investor groups that also responded to a Department of Public Lands' request for proposal to lease the Marpi lots.

DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, in separate Nov. 12 letters, notified both MRI chief operating officer Tae Ho Kim and

**See E-LAND on Page 4**



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# Local

## Health corporation's receivables reach \$36M

Store's container van burglarized, 20 sacks of animal feeds are stolen



Hai Liang Chen, 37, manager of Farmers Best Market in Chalan Kanoa, shows the two padlocks of a container van that were destroyed during the burglary on Tuesday. About 20 sacks of animal feeds worth over \$400 were stolen.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A container van for the newly opened Farmers Best Market along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa was burglarized on Tuesday and about 20 sacks of feeds for pigs and chicken worth over \$400 were stolen.

Hai Liang Chen, 37, manager of Farmers Best Market, told *Saipan Tribune* that the sacks of feeds were inside the 20-foot container van that was parked in front of the store.

Chen said the container arrived from California last Friday and that they only discovered the burglary after noticing Tuesday morning that the container's two padlocks had been destroyed.

Chen said they immediately called the police.

He said they are very disappointed because they just opened the store six months ago.

In those six months, he said, they caught many people stealing from the store, including a woman, but they are unaware if anyone has ever been prosecuted.

The manager said sometimes they just let the thieves go.

"It's not good. Stealing is always happening in Saipan," he said.

Chen said the Green Island Market in San Vicente that is also owned by his father was also robbed by two men two days after it opened for business in August 2010.

In that case, one suspect held a knife to the back of Chen's head, demanding money. After Chen gave the suspect \$400 in cash, the robber grabbed a pack of cigarettes and a bottle of liquor.

After a few days, police arrested the suspects, who were subsequently convicted.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s receivables now total \$36.091 million—an amount that would boost the hospital's operating revenues if collected from debtors, according to acting chief financial officer Cora Ada.

Ada also disclosed Tuesday that the corporation generated a total of \$32.2 million in revenue last fiscal year.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* indicate that the \$36 million account receivables cover fiscal years 2012 and 2013 and most are expected to be collected this fiscal year 2014.

Account receivable are a legally enforceable claim for payment to a business by its customer and these are generally in the form of invoices raised by the business and delivered to the

customer for payment within an agreed time frame.

The corporation's receivables in fiscal year 2012 was at \$12.152 million; that went up to \$23.9 million in fiscal year 2013.

Fiscal year 2013 ended on Sept. 30, 2013.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the corporation actually billed \$24.4 million in fiscal year 2012, of which \$12.1 million remains pending.

In fiscal year 2013, the corporation sent out bills totaling \$29.6 million. Of that amount, \$23.9 million are still pending payments.

In combining these two fiscal years' record, the corporation issued a total of \$54.1 million in bills issued to customers.

It was learned that of the \$23.9 million in receivables for fiscal year 2013, the bulk is from CHCC accounts receivables amounting to \$20.2

million while \$3.7 million collectibles are due from its billing contractor, the Guam Marianas Collection Agency.

Meantime, the acting CFO bared that the corporation earned \$32.2 million last fiscal year. This amount came from the following areas: CHC, \$29.5 million; Public Health Division, \$323,066; Tinian Health Center, \$344,449; Rota Health Center, \$245,120; and seed money (appropriation from the Legislature), \$1.8 million.

Fiscal year 2013 revenue generated from Medicare reimbursements amounted to \$8.3 million and from Medicaid reimbursement, \$10.1 million.

The corporation also collected the following amounts from private insurance companies: Aetna Global, \$3.7 million; Calvo's, \$1.1 million; Staywell, \$315,478; Moylan, \$179,320; other insurance, \$985,998. Total collected from all insurance firms is \$6.3 million.

The corporation also made money from leases and rentals amounting to \$78,750; GMCA,

\$273,176; and upfront payment from grantors, \$4.3 million.

*Saipan Tribune* learned fiscal year 2013's revenue surpassed that 2012, which totaled \$24.9 million.

Ada cited the improved billing process and hospital system that has zeroed out backlogs for fiscal year 2012.

### Projected revenue

For this fiscal year, the corporation expects to generate \$40.9 million in revenue.

Ada's report to the board indicated that projected Medicare reimbursement will reach \$15.9 million while that of Medicaid, \$10.6 million. Collection from private insurance is expected at \$6.3 million while from Public Health Division, \$403,833.

Meantime, projected revenues from Tinian and Rota centers are \$516,674 and \$367,680, respectively. Also included in the projected \$40.9 million for the new fiscal year is the promised \$2 million from the Legislature.

## Four more Ospreys are deployed to Philippines

AP

U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft arrive at Villamor Airbase, Monday, Nov. 11, 2013 in Manila, Philippines, to deliver humanitarian aid for victims in the areas devastated by Typhoon Haiyan.



**OKINAWA, Japan**—Four additional MV-22B Ospreys departed Marine Corps Air Station Futenma yesterday to support Operation *Damaycan*, a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan.

As of Tuesday, 129,000 lbs of relief supplies have been distributed and hundreds of displaced persons have been relocated to Manila.

The four additional MV-22B Ospreys will assist the

U.S. Marines and airmen from 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, who have already deployed to provide a wide range of relief efforts to the Philippines.

Including those that deployed yesterday, there are currently eight MV-22B Ospreys belonging to Marine Medium Tiltrotor 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF, deployed in support of Operation *Damaycan*.

The MV-22B provides a unique capability in this type of operation, with its vertical take-off and landing capabilities allowing it to operate in austere environments. Its ability to convert quickly to fixed-wing configuration gives greatly increased speed and range over the traditional rotary-wing aircraft, substantially strengthening our ability to save lives and reduce suffering. The aircraft's range allows it to deploy four times the distance

from Okinawa as traditional rotary wing aircraft without stopping to refuel.

"The MV-22B Osprey is the ideal aircraft for this situation. Its medium-lift capacity and ability to fly great distances are essential to support relief efforts of such a large scale area" said Lt. Col. Joseph Lee, executive officer of VMM 262, 1st MAW, III MEF. "The squadron was prepared for this operation and on their way to the Republic of the Philippines within 24 hours to begin assisting in the

relief efforts."

Super Typhoon Haiyan has impacted more than 4.2 million people across 36 provinces in the Philippines, according to the Philippine government's national disaster risk reduction and management council.

Since 1990, the U.S. Government has responded to more than 40 disasters in the Philippines at the request of that country's government, ranging from volcanic eruptions, drought, and population displacement. (PR)

## Ex-reserve cop is new police spokesperson

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero has appointed a former reserve police officer from the state of Michigan as the new public information officer for DPS police.

Deleon Guerrero said that Police Officer 1 Travis Hurst, who served as a reserve police officer in Michigan from 2000



Hurst

to 2010, moved to Saipan in November 2011.

"Officer Hurst looks forward to working with the citizens of the CNMI to make the islands a safer place and a better place to live," said Deleon Guerrero at Tuesday's news briefing.

Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr., who served as acting information officer for police after Deleon Guerrero became the commissioner, retains his positions as officer-in-charge of the Boating Safety Unit and chief of the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence.

Together with Hurst, DPS now has two information officers. Jocelyn Alvarez is the spokesperson for the DPS Fire Division.

Hurst joined DPS only on Oct. 8 and was assigned at the Community Oriented Policing Section.

Before coming to Saipan, Hurst attended police training academy in Florida and passed the state officer certification exam. He currently holds a master's degree in criminal justice administration.

Deleon Guerrero said the new police PIO is well versed in many aspects of the job and brings with him a background in information technology.

Hurst first came to Saipan for a vacation in 2009 as he has some friends on the island. His friends persuaded him to come back and he ended up staying on Saipan near the end of 2011.

"I enjoy the island, I enjoy the people. So I'm excited to be part of the community and be of help and serve the public and help the media integrate with the DPS as much as possible," he said.

Hurst said he enjoys his job at DPS and the people he works with.

"I enjoy the citizens that I meet every day. It's really a good department. It's really a good community to be a part of," he said. "Saipan is a nice melting pot of cultures and it's good to start to learn each of the cultures and try to integrate a lot of the stateside stuff to the stuff we do here on Saipan."

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## Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

**ASAN, Guam**—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on

the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates

and times:

- Nov. 14, from 4am to 7am and 7pm 11:55pm
- Nov. 15, from 4am to 7am

and 9am to 5pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour opera-

tors—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the

training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(PR)**

## CUC

From Page 1

has not yet been finalized and approved. The master plan is a long-term study done on CUC's water and wastewater systems to assess and plan the next 20 years of projects for the CNMI. The financial plan, which was a part of the analysis done for the master plan, is the basis for CUC's operating and maintenance costs for the water and wastewater rate request.

"The master plan is currently in draft form, and while it has been submitted to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency]

pursuant to the stipulated orders, it is not finally approved. To now involve CH2MHill (the contractor for the study) in answering lengthy and involved discovery questions on the master plan would be expensive, since CUC would have to pay consulting fees," bared Warren, adding that the master plan cost approximately \$2.25 million.

Warren said that to go through these efforts in time and money based on a draft document was something that CUC felt was not reasonable.

"As a result, we decided it was most prudent to move forward with the electric case, which is sorely needed, and

delay the water and wastewater case," said Warren.

He said that once the master plan is finally approved, CUC will bring the water and wastewater case before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission again.

CUC first petitioned the commission on July 5, 2013, to allow it to increase its water and wastewater charges, citing the agency's struggling financial position.

Yesterday, CUC announced its proposed new electric base rates that, if approved, will take effect on Jan. 9, 2014.

The commission is also scheduled to address "other re-

quests" from CUC that include, among others, the inclusion of the cost of the Telesource change order No. 5 in the new rate petition.

Telesource CNMI Inc. is the independent power producer on Tinian. It wants to be paid a higher rate. This amendment to its contract—called change order No. 5—was approved on Nov. 29, 2011, but was put on hold in January 2012. Change order No. 5 provides extensions of up to 15 years on the Telesource contract, with incremental increases each year that will be sourced from electric base charges.

"The commission issued orders on Nov. 29, 2011, and

Tebuteb, who was on island yesterday, said he co-sponsored the resolution because he supports its intent. He said he will vote "yes" to the resolution when it gets to the floor.

Other House members who are neither co-author of the resolution nor member of the committee that reviewed it have yet to make public their stand on HR 18-34.

Meanwhile, the governor is also concerned about the resolution's impact on a related issue, wherein the CNMI requests an extension of the CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, so that the islands will continue to have access to some 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers.

Moreover, without Sablan's provision in S. 744 or H.R. 15, "anyone who's been here as of December 2011, who has no felony conviction and who has no three misdemeanor charges, would be eligible to a path [to citizenship]."

Sablan's provision allows legal aliens who have been in the CNMI since at least 2003 to "apply" for permanent residency or "green card" five years after the immigration reform bill is signed into law.

It is uncertain whether S.744 and H.R. 15 could be acted on by U.S. Congress this year, although Delegate Sablan earlier said that if and when U.S. House Speaker John Boehner puts S. 744 to a vote, it has enough votes to pass.

Jan. 27, 2012, which indicate to CUC that the rate was approved. While we understand that perhaps the commission's interpretation is that the rate can only be approved after further consideration of the reasonableness of the cost to consumers, there is nothing which has changed since our initial application and so we are standing on that," Warren said.

### Monthly adjustment for LEAC

CUC also wants to continue to make monthly changes to its LEAC (levelized energy adjustment clause) charge under the authority established in the CPUC's January 2012 order. This order allows CUC to make monthly LEAC adjustment in the absence of a functioning CPUC.

## HOUSE

From Page 1

the victims and hopes that the Filipino's resilient character and *bayanihan* spirit will once again overcome the daunting challenges," Demapan said in his House Resolution 18-47.

The CNMI is home to thousands of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans, many of them with families that were affected by one of the deadliest supertyphoon in a century.

Demapan's filing of a resolution came a day after Gov. Eloy S. Inos also expressed, on behalf of the CNMI and its people, their "sincerest sympathy" to the Philippines in the wake of the typhoon. The governor called on his fellow CNMI people to "help out in any way possible."

The House could act on HR 18-47 as early as Friday, during its session on Rota.

Demapan said with casualty estimates still being compiled, several thousands missing, thousands displaced and hundreds of people wounded, places this super typhoon as one of the worst cataclysm to hit the Philippines.

"The people of the [CNMI] offer our most sincere condolences and profound prayers

to the people of the Philippines, most especially the family members of those who have perished, those who have been wounded, and those who remain unaccounted for at this time," HR 18-47 partly reads.

The resolution also pays tribute to the search and rescue teams, and commends the efforts of men and women of the Philippine government, the U.S. government, the United Nations, and the international community in their immediate response to Haiyan/Yolanda.

Demapan said the CNMI people will work closely with Philippine Consul General Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian "to address the ongoing developments and relief efforts in the Philippines and will continue to pray for the Philippines and its people."

Haiyan struck central Philippines on Friday, sending a wall of water crashing into towns, decimating and separating families, and flattening towns. Haiyan's winds were estimated at record 195 mph or 315 kph and gusts as strong as 235 mph or 380 kph.

In the CNMI, humanitarian groups, private businesses, organizations and individuals have initiated fundraisings and collected in-kind donations to help the typhoon victims in the Philippines.

responded to an RFP to lease 40,827 square meters of public lands in San Antonio, also for the development of a new hotel with at least 200 rooms.

They are also E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc., and the Hong Kong-based Honest Profit International Ltd.

MRI and Honest Profit's presentation and interview is on Nov. 22, at different times.

The other three that didn't make it to the short list for the San Antonio lot were KSA Corp., INNOASSET, and Future Ent. Inc & Reading Investment & Securities and Korea Asset Investment Corp.

## BILLS

From Page 1

A copy of the committee report, released yesterday, shows that only four of seven panel members signed off on it.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, meanwhile, reiterated his support for a pathway to improved immigration status for long-term, legal aliens in the Commonwealth.

The governor also expressed concern that House Resolution 18-34 goes against the CNMI goal of having "one voice," considering that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) worked on the CNMI-specific provision's inclusion in both S. 744 and H.R. 15.

The committee report said that HR 18-34 requests Congress to eliminate any action on Section 2109 of S. 744 and similar legislation "which will allow thousands of alien workers, their families and persons of other ethnic origin or race who are in the [CNMI] to become U.S. permanent residents and subsequently become U.S. citizens."

Among the committee's findings is that absent any updated CNMI Census information other than the 2010 Census data, Chamorro and Carolinian people of Northern Marianas descent already constitute only 15,363 or 29 percent of the CNMI population.

"As a consequence, the Chamorros and Carolinians of the Northern Mariana Islands will ultimately become powerless and minority voice in their homeland," the committee said.

The committee agrees with the resolution that the CNMI-specific provision in national immigration reform bills goes against the Covenant that established the political relationship between the Northern Marianas and the U.S.

Delegate Sablan said the issue of immigration "was settled in 1975 when the people approved the Covenant."

CNMI immigration is now under federal control pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229.

The delegate said if some individuals believe that the federal government is infringing upon Northern Marianas sovereignty, they should bring PL 110-229 to court rather than in Congress.

Besides Ogumoro and committee chair Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), the other two members who signed the report recommending the House adoption of House Resolution 18-34 are Reps. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan). Deleon Guerrero and Agulto are co-sponsors of HR 18-34.

The three committee members who didn't sign the report were Reps. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), and Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan).

Yumul told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that during the committee meeting on Friday—which lasted almost six hours—he expressed his "reservations" on HR 18-34 and will vote "no" to it when it gets to the floor for action.

"I'm not voting in favor of the resolution," Yumul said.

Sablan and Leon Guerrero could not be reached for comment on the committee report, as they were in Guam for the Nov. 12 and 13 Mariana Islands Legislature Association Congress. But both JP Sablan and Leon Guerrero are co-sponsors of the resolution.

If the committee report is adopted on Friday during a session on Rota, then the House could vote on it on the same day or at the next session.

The resolution itself, however, has at least 12 co-authors, led by Ogumoro, and if they all vote "yes," then the resolution would be adopted as early as Friday on Rota.

The 12 co-authors of the resolution including Ogumoro, Agulto and Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero are Reps. Anthony T. Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Christopher Leon Guerrero, Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan, Richard Seman (R-Saipan), Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), and Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan).

Most of them were in Guam.

In Marpi, the two available lots for lease have about 49,500 square meters and 49,505 square meters.

MRI was also on the short list of investors for the lease of a public land in San Antonio, also to develop a new hotel with at least 200 rooms.

E Land, through MRI, also owns Coral Ocean Point and Pacific Islands Club, among other major hotels in the CNMI.

### '3 others'

Tenorio also sent separate Nov. 12 letters to three entities that "did not qualify" as one of the short-listed companies for the

## E-LAND

From Page 1

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan that they were among the short-listed companies for the Marpi lots.

They were short-listed by a five-member ad-hoc evaluation and selection committee, of which DPL's Tenorio is a member.

The other members are from the Zoning Office, departments of Public Works and Commerce, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

DPL said the next process

is for MRI and Tan Holdings to make a presentation and go through an interview related to their proposal on Dec. 12.

Tan Holdings' presentation and interview is at 1:30pm that day, while MRI is at 3pm, both at the DPL office in Dandan.

"The Department of Public Lands congratulates you on your excellent proposal and looks forward to your interview and presentation. Thank you for showing your interest in helping develop our economy," DPL's Tenorio said in his separate one-page letters to MRI's Tae Ho Kim and Tan Holdings' Jerry Tan.

# CNMI govt told to pay Johnson her \$7,500 service award

» **Johnson's attorneys' fees, costs will be heard on Jan. 13, 2014**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

U. S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the CNMI government yesterday to pay Betty Johnson her \$7,500 service award

by Nov. 25, 2013.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted that the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government provides that Johnson receive a service award.

The \$7,500 is an incentive in

recognition of Johnson's time and effort in bringing the class action as class representative.

In the same order, the judge moved the status conference in Johnson's class action—currently scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15—to Jan. 13, 2014, at 9am.

At the conference, Tydingco-Gatewood said, the court will also hear arguments on the award of attorneys' fees if the parties in the case are unable to resolve this issue through settlement negotiations.

Johnson's lawyers were required to file their briefs and other documents by Nov. 22, 2013, and the CNMI govern-

ment and the Fund by Dec. 16, 2013.

Johnson has four lawyers: Bronster Hoshibata law firm, Bruce Jorgensen, Stephen Woodruff, and Timothy Lord.

The Honolulu-based counsel, Bronster Hoshibata law firm, is seeking \$17.5 million in attorney's fees and costs; Jorgensen is demanding

\$18.6 million, \$29.6 million, or \$38.9 million; Woodruff is asking for \$1.01 million; and the San Rafael, California-based Lord is seeking either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million.

Tydingco-Gatewood had directed the counsels and the CNMI government to talk about the attorneys' fees issue with Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris, who conducted the settlement discussions in the class action.

## CUC: Further operational cuts would risk delivery of services

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Faced with heightened objections to a new power rate increase for customers, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday that the desire for further operational cuts is not possible as this would risk the agency's ability to continue providing needed services.

This will also put at risk CUC's ability to comply with court orders, according to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher.

CUC has a pending rate hike petition before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission that, if approved, will take effect in January 2014.

Fletcher said that CUC is only asking for rates that match its costs, as required by the law, besides ensuring reliable service for its customers.

"CUC has already cut costs significantly. Any further operational cuts would risk CUC's ability to continue to provide service and would risk non-compliance with the stipulated orders," said Fletcher.

He said the agency is already working with reduced revenues

for operations due to outstanding government receivables.

Fletcher acknowledged that they have heard complaints from the public that CUC should just cut operational expenses to reduce rates, even as it is required to provide reliable services and meet its legal obligations to the federal court.



Fletcher

"It is not because the operational expenses of CUC are too high. In fact, even a drastic cut in the non-fixed operational expenses will have little effect on the

overall rate consumers will end up paying. At the same time, such a cut would have a tremendous effect on the quality and stability of the utility services CUC will be able to provide after a cut," he explained.

Fletcher said the primary reason for the high rates is the price of fuel to supply the power generation system of CUC. He disclosed that high rates are common and are due to one common thread—using diesel fuel for power generation.

"When looking at the cost of running CUC today, the utility does not recover its costs of operations," he said.

Fletcher disclosed that since

2006, CUC has incurred operating losses of over \$75 million—25 percent of non-fuel operations funding. This means, he said, that CUC has already "controlled" costs by operating on 25 percent less money than needed.

By far, Fletcher said, the large-

est cost and driver of current rates is diesel fuel costs, not operating expenses.

It was disclosed that CUC's personnel and all others' costs comprise only 28 percent of CUC's budget.

### Fuel purchased

CUC records indicate that the agency's total fuel purchase amounted to \$3.41 million in fiscal year 2013—150 percent of what it was in fiscal year 2010, which totaled \$2.3 million.

"Looking at the last few years, from [fiscal year] 2010 to present, the amount of gallons of fuel CUC needed to

purchase has gone down. Much of this is due to CUC's improvement of its efficiencies. We are operating better so we need less fuel to get the same amount of electricity out of our engines," he said.

Fletcher pointed out that even with the increase in fuel costs, CUC has made significant efforts to cut operational costs.



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# Hospital's AC system project moves at a snail's pace

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The project to replace the old air-conditioning system at the Commonwealth Health Center has been moving at a snail's pace, frustrating members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Board members fear that the existing heat, ventilation and air-conditioning system will break down at anytime.

The Inos administration had earlier assured the replacement of the HVAC system, in consideration of the corporation's shaky finances. It promised \$5 million for the project, to be sourced from untapped CIP monies guaranteed by the Office of Insular Affairs.

Negotiations and processes to kick-start the project began early this year but, as of Tuesday, progress has been elusive, as reported to the board.

"The last update I got from the CIP is that they haven't really gone to the actual contract. I did bring that up with the governor and he also seems frustrated that it is taking so long," said interim corporation CEO Esther Muña when asked by the board Tuesday.

She pointed out that since the project is being funded by CIP monies, the corporation has no direct control on the process and that the corporation's participation in the matter is only through assessment and information sharing.

There are also a few factors that contribute to the delay in the project, one of which is reportedly the CIP office's issue with its vendor, Muña said.

## » Board fears potential breakdown of old HVAC



Guerrero

Expressing disappointment with the status of the project, board member Roy Rios raised the need for a contingency plan in the event the existing HVAC system collapses even before it is replaced.

"Do we have contingency plan? Will it [existing HVAC] last for another year?" Rios asked.

Board chair Joaquin Torres and vice chair Pete Dela Cruz shared Rios' fears if the system is not replaced soon.

"Should we be concerned that the system may break down anytime during the 10-month period [that it is supposed to be replaced]?" asked Torres, who had asked for emergency management director Warren Villagomez to attend the meet-

ing to shed light on the matter. Villagomez was reportedly off island, leaving facilities manager Joaquin Guerrero to face the board Tuesday.

Guerrero assured that despite the dilapidated condition of the existing HVAC system, the equipment is expected to still be in running condition while a new system is being installed. He disclosed that every AC unit at the hospital has two compressors, one serving as a backup for the other.

Plus, he said, a full-time crew is assigned just to perform the daily maintenance and monitor the system.

He cited as an example a recent situation at the hospital laboratory where additional new equipment resulted in the existing HVAC unable to handle the spike in the temperature.

"What we did is we bought two additional units [split-type AC] to basically take care the

situation," he said.

## Much needed upgrade

Saipan Tribune learned that the hospital's HVAC system, installed in the 1990s, uses the R22-type refrigeration system, which is designed for a smaller population.

Guerrero disclosed that pursuant to the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the R22 type will be phased out in 2015 and all HVAC system will be upgraded to the 134K type.

According to Guerrero, he

expects to receive a progress report on the project by Nov. 18, based on his conversation with the CIP office. He disclosed that 100 percent of the project drawing is done and will be reviewed by CIP and the corporation before submitting it to OIA.

He estimates that a bid notice will be out by Dec. 1, while the installation and construction of the new system will take some 10 months to finish. To avoid disruption of hospital operations, installation would be done in phases, he said.

## Hit-and-run victim sues ex-cop

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A woman who was injured during a vehicular hit-and-run case has filed a lawsuit in federal court against a terminated police officer who was the driver of the police vehicle that hit her.

Mayona S. Bergosa, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, is suing Martin Ilo Kapileo for negligence.

Bergosa asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Kapileo to pay her more than \$75,000 in damages for her medical expenses, pain, and suffering.

Kapileo was convicted in the Superior Court of five traffic offenses over the hit-and-run incident that occurred in Dandan on Oct. 27, 2012. Last July, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho slapped him with a five-year prison sentence and a \$1,800 fine.

According to Dotts in the complaint, on Oct. 27 this year at 12:56pm, Bergosa was walking home by the side of Dandan Road near Just Laundry when she was suddenly struck from behind by a vehicle.

Dotts said it was Kapileo who was driving the Department of Public Safety patrol car that hit Bergosa.

The lawyer said that Kapileo, who was then a police officer, fled in the patrol car.

Dotts said it was the rearview mirror on the passenger side of the patrol car that hit the plaintiff in the back of the head.

"The force of the impact resulted in plaintiff's injuries to her head, back, neck, knee, and leg," Dotts said.

The plaintiff's laundry and cell phone were scattered on the ground and were damaged.

Dotts said an ambulance was called and the victim was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The lawyer said the quick response of a witness who pursued Kapileo resulted in defendant's arrest.

As a result of Kapileo's actions, he was convicted.

"As defendant acted with reckless disregard by fleeing from the crash scene and failing to render assistance to the injured person, plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages," Dotts said.



## A WALK FOR BOHOL

CUC employees show off their souvenir T-shirts from the fundraising project, "A Walk for Bohol." From left, Noel Dognidon, Tita Robert, Sally Hossain, Tina Butac, Mira Bricia, and Jose "Pepe" Liwanag. "A Walk for Bohol" took place on Nov. 9, 2013.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

### KCA Corporation dba: K&K Market

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. The KCA Corp. is proposing to operate a Mom & Pop grocery store in an existing residential structure. This use is classified as Retail Sales, Light and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be located in Chalan Kanoa on lot #011 H 22 which is zoned as Village Residential.

**Date : November 21st, 2013 , Thursday**

**Time : 5:00 pm**

**Place : Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, November 20th, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

## Notice Of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, November 21st, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp))

### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of October 31st, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments

### B. Public Hearings

1. Conditional Use Application #2013-0856. Mr. Khan Mizanur of KCA Corp. is proposing to operate a Mom & Pop Grocery Store in an existing residential structure. This use is classified as Retail Sales, Light and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be located in Chalan Kanoa on lot #011 H 22 which is zoned as Village Residential.

### C. Communications/ Reports

### D. Old Business

1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. DeLeon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature
2. Saipan Zoning Law public outreach meetings

### E. New Business

1. Office operations report
2. Proposed changes in Zoning fees

### F. Executive (Closed) Session

### G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

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# DPS to crack down on misuse of government vehicles

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will launch a crackdown against public personnel who misuse government vehicles in the Commonwealth, according to DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero.

In a news briefing Tuesday, Deleon Guerrero disclosed that he notified the heads of every

government agencies that morning about DPS measures to go after those misusing government vehicles.

He said he told agency heads to instruct their personnel to comply with the law that governs the use and appropriate markings of all government vehicles in the CNMI.

"Reality of the situation is, there's a lot of government vehicles out there that are tinted and

unmarked and they shouldn't be," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said that DPS will give government agencies a couple of weeks to comply with the law before DPS initiates its operation.

The commissioner, however, began taking corrective steps at DPS itself by calling on Tuesday all those with assigned marked vehicles for inspection to make sure that they comply with the laws governing the tinting of vehicles.

"In other words, I will not be tolerating any of the marked vehicles being tinted and driven around in public highways. The only exception to this, of course, will be the tinting of the rear windows of the vehicles because we do transport juve-

niles," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the front windshield as well as the front windows should not be tinted.

He said he expects full compliance not only on the part of every personnel in the department, but also from all other government agencies.

The commissioner also disclosed that he initiated at DPS a "vehicle take home program," in which personnel are allowed to bring their assigned vehicles to their homes.

"We want to make sure that anyone who engages in any activities not authorized by the department or authorized by law will be promptly disciplined. In other words, there are some safeguards," he said.

This program, Deleon Guer-

rero said, increases the amount of exposure of police vehicles that are out on the streets at any given time.

"I would like for these vehicles to be taken care of by police and fire personnel in the department in a way where they treat them as their own so that it does over the long term also reduce the likelihood of leading to unnecessary repairs," he said.

The most important thing, he said, is that this will ensure that if someone breaks a vehicle, then they will know exactly who did it, as opposed to a lengthy investigation in trying to determine who should be held accountable.

In past DPS administrations, he said, the "take home program" was also implemented but there

was no policy in place to ensure that people who violated the policy will be held accountable.

"Now we have a policy in place," he stressed.

Deleon Guerrero said there will be other inspections that will be performed throughout the week to also look at unmarked vehicles, including undercover cars, that are assigned to the department.

While DPS is in charge of enforcing the law, the Division of Procurement and Supply of the Department of Finance is responsible for making sure that government vehicles follow the standard in terms of marking these cars, he said.

He has assigned traffic officers the primary task of going out and looking for those vehicles and those misusing them.

## Docomo president named to CTIA board

Docomo Pacific president and CEO Jay Shedd has been appointed to the CTIA-The Wireless Association 2014 board of directors.

Shedd is one of seven new directors who will be joining the board for a one-year term starting on Jan. 1, 2014.

"I am honored to actively participate with CTIA and for the opportunity to provide input pertaining to our region," said Shedd. "This opportunity, along with CTIA's goals, will enhance Guam and the CNMI's visibility to our wireless industry counterparts, resulting in our ability to better

grow our local services in line with global trends."

There are a total of 38 directors on the CTIA board composed of key executives from leading wireless companies, including AT&T, Verizon Wireless, Sprint, and T-Mobile USA.

CTIA-The Wireless Association is an international nonprofit membership organization that has represented the wireless communications industry since 1984. Membership in the association includes wireless carriers and their suppliers, as well as providers and manufacturers of wireless data services and products. *(Mark Rabago)*



## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy Birthday to Frances P. Gopez! Another year has passed and let us just say how much we count on you rather than count the years. Be happy, and may all your wishes and dreams come true. Have a wonderful birthday and much love! Greetings coming out from your friends and family.

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POST OFFICE

# 2013 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic Tournament

Photos by JOETEN MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Joeten Memorial Golf Classic organizing committee member Bo Palacios poses with Guam's Edward Terlaje.



Chris Nelson, far right, poses with his team.



Tournament organizing committee chair Somia Quan, right, poses with 2nd place winner for the Ladies Flight division, Kwun Yun Sook.



Norman "Dung" Tenorio wishes all players the best of luck during the tournament.

Gov. Eloy Inos, fourth from left, poses with members of the Joeten family, from left to right, Jesus Sablan, Annie Sablan, Frances Demapan, Priscilla Tenorio, and Bo Palacios.



Joeten Charitable Foundation president Frances Demapan, far left, along with Norman Tenorio, far right, share a moment of laughter with Bank of Guam's Frank Atalig.

Gov. Eloy Inos poses with members of the Joeten family. Also in the photo are Bank of Guam's Marcy Tomokane, far right, and Tony Satur, far back row.



Tournament of Champions coordinator Ben Babauta also participated in the Joeten golf tournament.



Former judge Edward Manibusan swings his club.

Jose Aiken Tenorio on his golf stance.

A golfer cheers on a successful putt.





Foundation trustees, volunteers, and executives of Bank of Guam look on as Nola Hix announce the big raffle prize of a brand new 2014 Nissan Titan valued at over \$44,000.



Champion winner JJ Atalig, far left, poses with his team members who were also on the champion flight division.



Players pose for the camera.



Lorraine Babauta, far right, poses with her team.



Bank of Guam's Marcy Tomokane, center, shares a meal with Joeten's Darlene Macaranas, far left, and Foundation trustee Priscilla during the awards lunch banquet.

Volunteers of the tournament pose for the camera.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Worst effects of climate change seen in Philippine typhoon



**O**n Monday the United Nations opened its 19th Framework Convention on Climate Change in Warsaw, Poland. Given the unimaginable devastation wrought on his country three days earlier by Typhoon Haiyan, the remarks of the delegate from the Philippines had a special resonance.

"To anyone who continues to deny the reality that is climate change, I dare you to get off your ivory tower and away from the comfort of your armchair," said Naderev "Yeb" Sano. "I dare you to go to the islands of the Pacific, the islands of the Caribbean and the islands of the Indian Ocean and see the impacts of rising sea levels; to the mountainous regions of the Himalayas and the Andes to see communities confronting glacial floods, to the Arctic where communities grapple with the fast dwindling polar ice caps, to the large deltas of the Mekong, the Ganges, the Amazon and the Nile where lives and livelihoods are drowned, to the hills of Central America that confront similar monstrous hurricanes, to the vast savannas of Africa where climate change has likewise become a matter of life and death as food and water become scarce."

That this was the 19th such annual event, and it's still about the "framework" of an agreement, suggests that Mr. Sano should not hold his breath.

No nation on earth has more to fear from its climate than the Philippines, an archipelago of 7,100 islands and 98 million souls. The climate has always wrought havoc there. Now it's getting worse.

See WORST on Next Page



### In other words

**A**n English teacher colleague relates the story of how she tried to teach students how to fill up an English application form, so she took an entrance admission sheet from one of the institutions of higher learning in Kansas, and administered it.

The form she used might have been an outdated one since a category called "sex" is still in where its newer incarnations might already have replaced it with "gender." In any case, what she got back in return: six of 10 boys wrote "yes," and four wrote "no"; of the girls, five out of 10 wrote "secret" and the other five, evidently riled, boldly asserted: "It's none of your business."

Were the form in Chinese, I am sure the gender identification would have been unmistakable, but English in its written conceptual form always needs grounding. It is not always the case in Chinese because its written words are pictographs and ideograms, an amalgamation of separate characters to form an abstracted meaning.

One of the words I put on early on the board in my class is the word "listen," since I wish for the students to focus on training their ears to get familiar with sounds, a requisite skill in learning a phonetic language as contrasted to the Zhongwen which, when recognized as written, already carries nuances and meaning.

Though I kept writing the word in bigger and bolder letters, I did not get the desired behavior. As students enter the classroom, I played either a recorded English song they are familiar with, or play a speech from a famous person (Hillary Clinton at the UN Women's Conference in Beijing in '96, or Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream," or John F. Kennedy's explanation of "why we go to the moon," or most recently, Barack Obama's Grant Park speech when he won the 2008 presidential election), hoping they would get the hint and settle down. The din of the place resembled the haggling at a public market.

The phonetic word for "listen" is "ting," which does not do my purpose any good just uttered or written in *pinyin* on the board, so I learned to write the Chinese character, monosyllabic in sound and squared in its written form, but comprising a mixture of independent symbols denoting varied descriptions. The character for "listen" is led with a picture of the "ear" with a qualifying symbol underneath for "grand or great," thus "intense hearing"; added to two symbols, those of an "eye" and the other, "attention," it then means "paying visual attention while intensely hearing." The final symbol at the bottom right quadrant is the heart, so the full meaning of the character for "ting" to this English teacher is "hearing intensely while visually paying attention with an open heart." When I wrote the character on the board, I received the silence I asked for!

Shifting from one language to another is not just a matter of translating words from one spoken word to another, particularly from a form that moves from describing sense experiences to ex-

By **JAIME VERGARA**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is [pinoypanda2031@aol.com](mailto:pinoypanda2031@aol.com).



pressing the intensity of emotions before articulating a concept, to an ideogrammatic construct that has all of the above in one character and syllable.

Chinese students in U.S. universities are known to do well in accurately repeating a teacher's vocabulary during written tests. As long as they can see a figure written, the memory does not fail the countless drills in vocabulary. Having to recognize at least 4,000 characters in order to make it to the university, students have brains trained to recognize abstracted pictures and images. Thus, it does not come as a surprise that their attempt at English comes highly abstracted.

To the question, "What did you eat for lunch?" the reply is most likely to be: "I had delicious food!" Written in Chinese, that is no problem since the characters are most likely, similar to "listen-ting," to be more than just the spoken syllable. Clarity in English requires grounding, so we ask further: "Did you have vegetable, meat, or a dumpling dish?" "Was it boiled or fried?" "Was it served warm or cold?" At which point, an exasperated Chinese might give you a look that says, "I already told you, I had a delicious meal!" And that would be the end of the conversation!

Commercialized Chinese language learning promises fast food service satisfaction. One gets a box of CDs and a debit of \$399 off one's account. When we trained Peace Corps Volunteers in the '80s, we immersed learners in their target language 8-hours 5-days a week for a whole month with a tutor, and another two weeks on site with instructions to actually use what they learned. Volunteers confessed that after their tour is over in two years, they actually began to get comfortable in the language they learned. Both English and their new language were phonetic based. Think what a challenge it is if the language is character-based?

Zhongwen is simplifying its characters and unifying phonetics with *Putunghua*. They are learning to listen. English speaking countries are embarrassed by the state of its literacy (recognizing and pronouncing written words), so it is encouraging reading with writing to start at the basic sense rather than conceptual level. They are learning to read.

We are hopeful at the confluence of words seen and words spoken.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Assassination

By DAVID F. BENCIVENGA  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*Editor's Note: A quarter century ago, the CNMI adopted a pension plan that was so generous the Department of the Interior was concerned that it would bankrupt and destabilize the CNMI government. The department issued a technical assistance grant to redesign the pension plan, and Bencivenga was given a one-year contract on Saipan to achieve that goal for the NMI Retirement Fund..*

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, or NMIRF, did not die a natural death. It was assassinated! The survival and prosperity of the NMIRF is in the best interests of the CNMI, its employees, and citizens. Poor investment performance of the NMIRF assets for a decade and the stunning reversal of the CNMI economy, along with a number of lesser causes, made the “actuarially determined contribution” to the NMIRF too expensive for the CNMI government. A standard exercise to redesign the NMIRF to incorporate modest benefit concessions and policy changes was necessary to bring the “actuarially determined contribution” back in line with the CNMI government’s ability to pay. This standard exercise, that was performed successfully a quarter century ago, would have preserved the financial integrity of the NMIRF and the benefits of the active and retired CNMI employees. This should have been done as early as 2006 and could have been done as late as 2011. Now it is too late.

Instead, a series of questionable and ill-advised decisions and actions have occurred aimed at the dissolution of the NMIRF. These decisions and actions have achieved that goal. Now the CNMI is left with a patchwork of programs that have devastated the benefits of the active and retired CNMI employees and left the CNMI government with costs that exceed those of the NMIRF. The only winners are the attorneys and service providers who assisted, if not conspired, in this assassination. The remaining assets of the NMIRF are now in the hands of those whose primary purpose is to convert as much of the remaining assets of the NMIRF to their own accounts. The chickens are in the hands of the fox!

Recent debate has centered around and blamed the fact that the CNMI government has not made the “actuarially determined contribution” to the NMIRF. I believe this argument, although true, is completely without merit. Let me offer the following “food for thought” on that and other important related topics:

(1) Active and retired CNMI employees are entitled to the benefits they earned from the NMIRF, and to my knowledge all benefits have been paid up until the Settlement Agreement. I know of nothing that entitles employees to a fund of any size nor to “actuarially determined contributions” other than what is contained in the CNMI public law, which the CNMI legislature could amend at any time.

(2) The “actuarially determined contribution” is not a number written in stone, and is the result of complex calculations incorporating numerous choices and assumptions. It is highly unlikely that two competent actuaries performing independent actuarial valuations of the same retirement program would come up with the same “actuarially determined contribution,” and sometimes they would differ substantially.

(3) It serves no useful purpose to even debate whether or not the CNMI government made the “actuarially determined contribution” to the NMIRF, when the CNMI government simply does not have the resources to make that payment. I have looked at the CNMI

government’s budget. You cannot get blood from a stone!

(4) The Defined Contribution Plan is not in the best interests of the CNMI government or its employees, and its adoption removes significant contributions that otherwise would have gone to and supported the NMIRF.

(5) Joining the U.S. Social Security System is not in the best interests of the CNMI or its employees, and will have a substantive negative impact on the CNMI economy, and also removes significant contributions that otherwise would have gone to and supported the NMIRF.

(6) The very objectives of the Betty Johnson litigation were contrary to the best interests of the active and retired CNMI employees, and were sold to the “settlement class” using the worst examples of fear mongering (e.g., if you don’t agree to this you will get nothing).

(7) The Settlement Agreement is not in the best interests of the active and retired employees nor the CNMI government itself. The Settlement Agreement is unworkable and will fail as soon as the remaining assets of the NMIRF are exhausted and, in my opinion, will lead to extreme hardship and even social unrest in the CNMI.

What is the current situation after the Settlement Agreement?

Active employees forfeited their entire pensions worth \$400 million in return for a refund of their contributions worth \$52 million. Active employees now have NO pension, and must start anew earning benefits under U.S. Social Security and the Defined Contribution Plan. Active employees contributed 11 percent or less of pay to the NMIRF, but must now contribute 16.2 percent of pay, 6.2 percent to U.S. Social Security and 10 percent to the Defined Contribution Plan. U.S. Social Security requires 10 years of contributions to be eligible for a pension, and the calculation of the amount of the pension is based upon 35 years of contributions. Unless an active employee has other employment covered by U.S. Social Security, it will be 10 years before any active employee qualifies for a U.S. Social Security pension, and even then the benefit will be small. Similarly, defined contribution plans require many years if not decades to accumulate an account sufficient to last throughout a person’s retirement. The outlook for active employees, particularly those within 10 years of retirement, is bleak indeed. I expect that, for the most part, the employee contribution refunds from the NMIRF will be spent before Christmas, and then social and political pressures will build as active employees start to really understand their plight.

The plight of retired employees is immediate and more obvious. Retired employees forfeited 25 percent of their pensions, a loss worth \$300 million. This 25-percent reduction was the direct result of the Settlement Agreement. Your benefits were bargained away by your attorney in order to secure the Settlement Agreement. Is this the outcome you envisioned when Betty Johnson initiated the class action lawsuit? Did you participate in a suit against the CNMI government to force them to reduce your pension? When the Settlement Agreement was finalized, Betty Johnson thanked the attorneys and proclaimed this a great day for the CNMI. Do you feel that this was a great day? Or do you feel that you were sold down the river?

Of course, the Settlement Agreement at least preserves the “75 percent pension” for retirees. Or does it? The Settlement Fund receives the remaining assets of the NMIRF, perhaps something a bit less than \$100 million. Thereafter, these assets will be dissipated making the 75 percent pension payments, which of course, is exactly the same as was happening under NMIRF before the Settlement

Agreement, only you were receiving “100 percent pensions.” After the NMIRF assets are completely gone, the payment of your 75 percent pension will be dependent on contributions from the CNMI government to the Settlement Fund. The Settlement Agreement calls for contributions from the CNMI government in the amount of \$25 million in fiscal year 2014, raising to \$45 million in fiscal year 2018, and slowly declining thereafter as retirees die off. Compare this with the “actuarially determined contribution” to the NMIRF in the most recent valuation of \$48.9 million, which would have financed 100 percent pensions to all active and retired employees. If the CNMI cannot make the \$48.9 million payment to the NMIRF, what makes you believe that it can make a \$45 million payment to the Settlement Fund? And actually, the situation is not that good. Read on.

Is the CNMI government the big winner here? After all, it reduced its obligations to the active employees by \$400 million and the retirees by \$300 million. However, the Settlement Agreement specifies contributions that the CNMI government must make to the Settlement Fund in the amount of a BILLION dollars or so. In addition, the CNMI government must make contributions to U.S. Social Security and the Defined Contribution Plan. My best guess is \$6 million annually to U.S. Social Security and \$4 million annually to the Defined Contribution Plan. The sum total of contributions that the CNMI government must make to the Settlement Fund, U.S. Social Security, and the Defined Contribution Plan combined exceed the “actuarially determined contribution” to NMIRF! Unless the CNMI government comes up with new, substantial sources of revenue, the Settlement Agreement must fail.

What to do now?

The CNMI is like a large, heavy truck that has lost its brakes on the way down a steep hill. The truck is careening uncontrolled down the hill, but everyone is in the back of the truck looking up the hill and arguing about why it lost control. What is needed is someone in the cab of the truck looking down the hill and trying to prevent the crash that otherwise is sure to come.

William H. Stewart has written a number of articles I have read that document looking up the hill. I ask him to turn his attention down the hill and look into the future to see the perils ahead. Most important is to estimate the actual amount of resources the CNMI government will have to finance pension benefits in the future.

Leaders of the CNMI government and the CNMI Legislature must understand the current situation. I recognize the names of people I knew a quarter century ago—good people, competent people. They will take appropriate action.

In closing, with the events of 2012 and 2013, I do not see a solution to the current state of affairs that does not involve pain and sacrifice. The problems, many self-inflicted, are far more complex and advanced than what we faced a quarter century ago. Back then, the Department of the Interior was concerned that the NMIRF would bankrupt and destabilize the CNMI government. That may yet come to pass. My perception is that the problem is beyond the resources and ability of the CNMI to solve. If the Department of the Interior is still active out there, cares and reads this article, then it should get involved NOW. There is an urgent need for legal and auditing assistance.

*David Bencivenga was the in-house actuary who assisted with the redesign of the NMI Retirement Fund almost a quarter century ago.*

## WORST

From Page 10

Storms have the entire Pacific Ocean to draw strength from. The Philippines sit astride shifting tectonic plates that have spawned 13 magnitude-6.0 or higher earthquakes since 2001. The latest was a magnitude-7.2 quake that struck the city of Bohol just four weeks ago and killed 222 people.

Since 2002, the Philippines have recorded 184 natural disasters, including an average of six typhoons (as hurricanes are known in the Pacific) each year. The storms are becoming more frequent and more intense; this one came 10 days after the traditional end of the typhoon season. Haiyan—known as Yolanda in the Philippines—was the 30th named storm of the 2013 Pacific season and the second Category 5 (winds in excess of 150 miles

an hour) to hit the Philippines in the last 11 months. Haiyan/Yolanda is the most powerful typhoon ever to hit land.

It did so at Tacloban, a port city of 200,000 and the capital of Leyte Province. Residents had been warned of the wind, but the shocking 19-foot storm surge may have swept thousands out to sea. Estimates of the dead range between 1,200 and 10,000. Thousands of people have simply disappeared.

The question here, 8,300 miles from Tacloban City, is “So what?”

We can write checks, and should, but we’ve got our own natural disasters—heat, flood, drought, tornadoes and (knock wood) the New Madrid Fault. We’ve got earthquakes in our hemisphere (Haiti 2010) that haven’t been cleaned up yet.

To the extent most of us know of Leyte at all, it’s that it’s where Gen. Douglas MacArthur waded ashore (twice, at Palo, not far from Tacloban, the second time for the cameras) when

he fulfilled his “I shall return” promise during World War II. The last great naval battle in history was fought off these shores in 1944. It’s when the kamikazes first flew.

Since then, benign neglect and a succession of corrupt governments didn’t build the infrastructure that might have helped mitigate the effect of Haiyan. Now climate disasters are coming so fast that the Philippines can’t catch up.

And maybe not the rest of us, either. If we’re wise, the Philippines will be the canary in the global coal mine.

This is where the worst effects of global warming are being felt first. Without serious, sustained attention and the kind of sacrifices in lifestyle that few nations seem prepared to make, every coast will feel what the coasts of the Philippines felt. Perhaps not as violently, but every bit as surely.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota

Partly Cloudy

▲88 ▼77

Palau

Partly Cloudy

▲87 ▼76

Yap

Partly Cloudy

▲88 ▼77

Chuuk

Partly Cloudy

▲87 ▼78

Pohnpei

Mostly Cloudy

▲87 ▼77

Kosrae

Mostly Cloudy

▲86 ▼77

Majuro

Mostly Cloudy

▲86 ▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland

Mostly Sunny

▲67 ▼55

Beijing

Sunny

▲57 ▼35

Hong Kong

Mostly Sunny

▲78 ▼67

Honolulu

Partly Cloudy

▲83 ▼69

London

Windy

▲49 ▼37

Los Angeles

Sunny

▲87 ▼57

Manila

Thundershowers

▲86 ▼79

Melbourne

Showers

▲62 ▼47

Miami

Showers

▲76 ▼69

New York

Sunny

▲41 ▼30

Osaka

Partly Cloudy

▲60 ▼54

Paris

Showers

▲49 ▼38

Pusan

Mostly Cloudy

▲61 ▼50

Rome

Mostly Sunny

▲68 ▼55

Salem

Partly Cloudy

▲55 ▼41

San Francisco

Sunny

▲71 ▼52

Seoul

Showers

▲55 ▼44

Tokyo

Partly Cloudy

▲57 ▼50

Washington, DC

Partly Cloudy

▲47 ▼32

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:22 AM

Today

High Tide:

1.6 Feet

11:01 AM

Today

Low Tide:

0.7 Feet

4:58 PM

Today

High Tide:

1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N155E to 22N146E, then continues as a shear line to 17N130E. Patchy cloudiness and showers are found along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Koror, south of a line from 3N130E to 3N135E to EQ137E. An upper-level low is centered northeast of Wake Island at 21N168E. At the surface, a trough runs southward from 25N166E to 15N167E. These features are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north and east of wake island in the area bounded by 19N165E to 25N167E to 25N173E to 17N180 back to 19N165E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles either side of a line from 5N154E to Kwajalein to 9N180. This is just north of Kosrae, but includes Pohnpei, Kwajalein and Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today

6:18 AM

5:44 PM

Friday

6:19 AM

5:44 PM

Saturday

6:19 AM

5:44 PM

Sunday

6:20 AM

5:44 PM

Monday

6:20 AM

5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today

3:16 PM

3:04 AM

Friday

4:00 PM

3:57 AM

Saturday

4:44 PM

4:50 AM

Sunday

5:30 PM

5:42 AM

Monday

6:17 PM

6:34 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

■ Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

■ E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).

■ Fax: (670) 235-3740

■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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■ The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.

■ The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

■ For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070

4:15am

5:05am

Daily

UA5068

8:40am

9:30am

Daily

UA5038

2:20pm

3:10pm

2, 3, 6

UA5078

6:05pm

6:55pm

Daily

UA5072

9:50pm

10:40pm

Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039

1:35pm

2:10pm

1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039

2:40pm

3:10pm

1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287

6:05am

11:25pm

2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287

6:05am

8:40am

1, 2, 4, 5, 6

DL297

4:30pm

7:20pm

Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608

3:10am

6:20am

1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606

2:10am

6:00am

1

OZ102

2:20am

5:50am

3

OZ606

2:40am

6:30am

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

OZ6063

3:30am

7:20am

4, 7

DZ104

2:00pm

5:30pm

6

OZ604

3:20pm

7:10pm

Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648

6:10am

8:40am

1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764

4:10am

8:00am

1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646

4:20am

7:30am

2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701

2:10am

11:15am

1 via ICN

OZ606/701

2:40am

11:15am

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

UA5070/191

4:15am

9:05am

3, 6 via GUM

DL287/473

6:05am

10:30pm

1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT

UA5068/PR111

8:40am

4:45pm

1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

UA5038/183

2:20pm

9:30pm

2 via GUM

UA5078/183

6:05pm

9:50pm

1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

OZ604/703

3:20pm

11:00pm

Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721

2:10am

11:50am

1 via ICN

OZ606/721

2:40am

11:50am

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

UA5068/179

8:40am

10:35pm

1, 5 via GUM

UA5038/179

2:20pm

10:35pm

3, 6 via GUM

OZ604/749

3:20pm

11:00pm

Daily via ICN

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069

2:45am

3:35am

Daily

UA5071

7:15am

8:05am

Daily

UA5039

12:10pm

1:00pm

1, 4, 5, 7

UA5077

4:45pm

5:35pm

Daily

UA5079

8:30pm

9:20pm

Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038

12:10pm

12:45pm

2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038

1:15pm

1:50pm

2, 3, 6

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298

4:35am

3:00pm

3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298

10:25am

3:00pm

Daily

DL288

8:55pm

1:30am+1

1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607

9:00pm

1:50am+1

3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ101

8:30am

2:00pm

3

OZ603

9:00am

2:20pm

Daily

OZ103

7:30pm

1:00am+1

6

OZ605

7:40pm

1:00am+1

7

OZ605

8:10pm

1:30am+1

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

OZ6053

9:10pm

2:30am+1

3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647

10:40pm

5:00am+1

3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763

7:55pm

3:10am+1

4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645

7:40pm

3:00am+1

1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603

12:10am

2:20pm

Daily

PR110/UA5072

7:35am

5:35pm

1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

DL172/288

7:40am

1:30am+1

1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT

UA190/5079

10:00am

5:35pm

3, 6 via GUM

OZ702/605

12:30pm

1:00am+1

7 via ICN

OZ702/605

12:30pm

1:30am+1

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

UA184/5071

10:55pm

8:05am+1

1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

UA184/5071

11:59pm

8:05am+1

2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603

12:30am

2:20pm

Daily via ICN

OZ722/605

1:15pm

1:00am+1

7 via ICN

OZ724/605

1:50pm

1:30am+1

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

UA180/5071

11:10pm

8:05am+1

1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

## Our story only we know

It's vital to explain why we can't let an opportunity go by so fitting to begin solving the devastating effects of the lack of investments here since 2005. I do so reluctantly by sharing with you a personal story that many of you share (with your own versions) so close to heart.

The economy being dysfunctional on all corners, it triggers significant losses in revenue generation that shifted heavily from \$256 million annually (boom years) to \$123 million today. This forces decisions on various cuts, including a 25-percent across-the-board reduction in pension for retirees.

My initial reaction was that it would not happen. It did and came down without a blink on Oct. 15 of this year. Before this eventuality, my wife and I sat down to figure out how much would be deducted and where does the family purse go with it. Came the thunderous deduction of more than \$700 per month or \$8K plus per year.

As a retiree with disabilities, I literally had to explore the limits of my physical disabilities. I had to forcibly do it to see if, as a lifetime cardiac patient, there are things I could still do daily (working to supplement the family budget) beyond swallowing potent heart and diabetes medications. Other appalling discovery, as my spouse and I were walking through the family budget, include:

A good portion of my monthly income would be gone. It usually covers such obligations as medication and healthcare, real estate insurance, monthly housing installments, health insurance, auto insurance, life insurance, and the prohibitive cost of utilities, among others. There's a greater chance today losing my ONLY house after years of steady payment and swallow the air in my backyard substituting for potent heart medication.

As a pro-growth person, I've watched the roller coaster ride of the boom years and years on economic devastation or dystopia where nothing works. I'm not content sitting idly by. I started assessing how those in the lower income level had to weather deeper and heavier familial hardship daily. I can't stand what I've seen in the simple faces of our folks everywhere!

Then a friend came by and asked that I jointly review the proposed wind turbine power generation with him. If allowed to move in by privatizing CUC, it means power rates for residential would

drop by as much as FIFTEEN cents, i.e., from the current \$.44 per KWh to \$.29 cents per KWh. It's a family savings of \$108 per month or \$1,296 per year.

Definitely, such savings can allow me and others to use the savings for my medication and work the clock by the penny to avoid losing my only house, health insurance, real estate insurance, real estate monthly installments (home) and money for my medication.

Friends, it's an opportunity to change the calculus from unsolicited hardship in misery forced upon the multitude by the lack of investments. This condition sends us to the corner of misery as a result of incompetence and lackadaisical attitude at opportunities to help, yes, "we the people."

A cut of 25 percent is crippling, doubled up with the constant increase in utility rates. It need not be this way! We deserve nothing less than the best in fidelity to representation. It's a policy call in the palm of legislators.

### Ayudu ginen man-ma`gasta

Guaha dumagau botlu pot hu supopotta priniponen modetnu na sisteman kandet. Hu pañot lau mau`udai este na disision ginen estoriahu mismu. Seguruyu` na megai gi entre hamyu parehu pinadesisita lau ta pega hihot gi korasonta gi hilu esperansa na u guaha bendision gi ayudun para benefisiu todus.

Nai huhuñgog planun para ma-utot sueddon man-ritirau hu dispacha na ti u fattu. Sin ditension umeffektibu gi 15 de Octubre pa`gu na sakan sin chumalamlam. Ayu `nai in`fatachuñge ta`lu rumepasa haf` siempre u faliñgu yan taimanu `nai siñayu` yan asaguahu luma`la` gi halom este na mattiru.

Pot esta malañguyu` (korason ya diabetes) ti hu lañgan macho`chu` tai guine antes. Lau sige hu chage nina` siñahu para bai` lie` kau guaha kampu kumalamten taiguihe gi alacha siha na tiempu. Dispues de in` ta`lun umatan pottanmonedan familia `nai klaru hulie` kabales litratu ni sumen na`triste. Hu soda` i sigiente:

Makat siempre hu apase kobransan guma` gi mes, `nos kuantos insurance desde guma, hinemlu` yan kareta. Ti bai` hineñgñgañg `an mattu i banku ya ha chule` guanyu` ni uniku gima`hu. Ni ti bai` matman pumañot i mañglu sa` esta ti hulañgag apas amot para kora-

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



sonhu yan diabetes.

Dispues de hulie` este na chatpagun litratu, hu konsidera haf` mohon pinadesen mayotment ni gumagana menos ke guahu. Poresu na chuchahlau chumoneg i mapropone na sisteman kandet sa` mas dañkulu na benefisiu para todus.

De hemunosyu` huegon politika sa` i politika ni tafafana` gaige gi me`nan guieñga `nai mababa puetton appottunidade para ta ayuda kabales i tautau-ta. Lache finaisesenhu? Ni ti masuesuedduyu` para bai fama este na propositu. Lau pot benefisiu para todus mina` hu atotga pumechiñg gi apaga`hu gi hilu` pinasensia puede malie` ni lehislatura na propiu i para uma-embrasa i mismu propositu. Si Yuus Maase`! Si Iku.

■ ■ ■

I tafafana` na propositu pot modetnu na sisteman kandet pot areglun publiku. Estague` un` appottunidade `nai siña ta ayuda anchu yan petmanente i tautau-ta siha ni mampos man-sinasa`pet ni guaguan apas kandet.

Mas man-maluñu` ha`anen niha `nai man-tinetpe otru chinatsaga tat kumu ma-utut pagamientun man-ritirau. Dispues, kada birada mañgahulu` nesessidat familia gi tenda yan otru siha obligasion. Maila` ta ayuda i publiku gi hilu` yine`ase` pot para ta alibia dididi` ha`anen niha.

Libianu ta lagnos hit ginen este na chinatsaga. Mauleg ta soyu` representante-ta yan senadot-ta na u ma-appueba i joint resolution ya umana` praiet i CUC ya umanae` gi mismu tiempu i man-propopone na kompania ya u halom yan nuebu na fondu ya u aregla problema siha sin umahatsa apas kandet. Ta miresi na ta ayudan maisa hit pa`gu. Si Yuus Maase`!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Thank you for supporting Yvette

So many people have been congratulating us on Yvette's crowning that we just have to say thanks to all of you that we might not see or meet. There are no words in English to express Yvette's and our entire family's appreciation for the support you have given Yvette to help her win the two Idaho state titles she now holds: Miss Idaho U.S. International and Miss Idaho U.S.A. The community has truly let us know how glad you are for Yvette and how proud she has made you feel and your congratulations means the world to Yvette and our entire family. In fact, the voting online that allowed Yvette to win Miss Photogenic is a direct result of the people in the CNMI voting for her, so all of you were contributors to Yvette's success whether it was cash and/or votes. Yvette could not have won without you and we will be forever grateful.

The funny thing about this is we told Yvette "no more" after she got first-runner up to Miss Idaho U.S.A. last year. But she told us, "Mom, Dad, I'm so close" and she went and joined again behind our backs to win it all. So parents, share it with your children: Do not let anyone try to stop them from fulfilling their dreams—parents included, because we just got schooled and reminded by our baby daughter that true love and support is unconditional!

It is still not over, though, as we must now prepare for the online voting to help Yvette in the national competition as she will be up against states like California that has 38 million people and other states with double digit millions. She is not going to Florida just being content with the Miss Idaho crown; she wants to win! So we must do our share and we do have a plan that will be shared later. The great part about Yvette's quest now is all the fundraising days are over and we won't be soliciting donations anymore and that is a big thank God! The State of Idaho is covering all of her expenses and giving her additional pocket money every month. They are not wasting any time as Yvette has already started preparing as she flew to Washington State this past weekend to meet with her new trainers, photo shoots, and others who will be providing services to prepare her for the national competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Yvette Bennett waves to the crowd after being crowned the 2013 Miss Idaho U.S.A.

When Yvette wins, we win, even though she may wear a sash that says Miss Idaho. The fact that she was born in Guam and grew up in the CNMI will be just as well-known as Idaho. The CNMI will always be her true "home-sweet-home," making us winners too! Thank you CNMI and, who knows, there may still be even more to come from Yvette as she is in it with a real chance to win it!

**Ambrose & Lillian Bennett**  
Kagman, Saipan

## Action without consultation

I was reading the article on Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's statement at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting a few days ago and his newspaper comments on Nov. 1. First, his Nov. 1 comment was that he is too busy to play politics and has no time for his so-called detractors. These so-called detractors include the CNMI Women's Association, the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., and just about anybody who questions him on issues that require consultation with the people that put him in office. Important issues include:

(1) The submerged lands that he arbitrarily negotiated despite local appeals to negotiate for larger submerged landownership. Other insular areas have 9 to 12 miles submerged landownership but our delegate did a "reverse negotiation" by requesting from the bottom of 3 miles, which is the lowest instead of requesting and negotiating from the top 12 miles down. He exhibited very poor negotiating skill;

(2) The military's planned use of Pagan and other islands in the Northern Marianas. To everyone's surprise our delegate is quiet on the possible permanent damage to the environment, the economy, and the lives of the people of the CNMI that may result from the planned military use of land, air space, and sea in the Northern Islands. Why isn't he doing anything to address this? This is an opportunity to prove some leadership and negotiation skills on Delegate Sablan's part. I wonder sometimes whether our delegate reads and understands the fundamental rights and sovereign authority of the CNMI under the Covenant Agreement. That the federal government cannot exercise absolute authority over the Commonwealth. That's why we have the 902 talks provision and his presence in Washington, D.C. It seems like he accepts everything that the federal government imposes on the CNMI without putting up a fight.

Examples of his inaction include:

(1) imposition of the minimum wage increase at a time when the CNMI could not afford and businesses were begging for deferment until the economy improves. What happened? The forced implementation of increased minimum wage accumulating to 82 percent forced numerous small businesses to close shop, the remaining garment

factories left the CNMI, and government revenue and budget dropped to \$110 million;

(2) our delegate did nothing to prevent the marine monument in the Northern Islands, which basically restricts local people from commercial fishing and other economic activities. The federal government promised job creation and other goods if the marine monument was designated. That was four years ago and to date nothing came from the federal government and its promises—a federal government deception;

(3) federalization of immigration that resulted in Public Law 110-229. Our delegate sided with the federal government to implement transfer of immigration to the feds despite opposition by local leaders. Now he is arguing before DOL to extend foreign labor presence in the CNMI for another five years beyond 2014. When can our delegate get his act together?

I believe that Delegate Sablan is intimidated by the sovereign authority of the federal government, his lack of understanding of his authority granted to him under the Covenant Agreement, and the fact that the federal government pays his salary. Let's not forget what he told a group in a forum, "I work for the federal government." This statement tells a lot about our delegate and it leaves a lasting impression on who really represents and where his loyalty lies. Certainly it is not with the CNMI people that put him in office but the federal government that pays his \$170,000 salary.

Because he works for the federal government he arbitrarily supported the Department of the Interior's recommendation to Congress for improved immigration status of all foreign workers in the CNMI. He went on to introduce a bill to support DOI's recommendation followed by his persistent support again of U.S. Senate Bill S.744, Section 2109 and House Resolution 15 very recently for a pathway to citizenship for some 14,000 foreign workers in the CNMI. He did all these with tenacity, without consulting with the CNMI people whom we thought he was supposed to represent in Congress.

**Marvin Pangelinan**  
San Vicente, Saipan



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# 'Congress already knows NMI discord on alien workers' status'

**GUAM** (Pacific News Center)—A longtime consultant to the Pacific Island says even without final action on a CNMI House Committee-passed anti-alien status resolution, the CNMI has already telegraphed its disunity to the U.S. Congress.

The news of the NMI House Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations Action has already been transmitted to the U.S. Congress instantaneously—no other action required.

That, from Pacific Islands consultant and former Interior Department Official Fred Radewagen on the local resolution that Congress “hold indefinitely” NMI pathway-to-improved status provisions in a U.S. Senate-passed reform bill.

Radewagen said, “The modern telecommunications...it may be one subcommittee or one committee in one house...but they telegraph these things

instantaneously to Washington, and Washington always looks for an excuse not to do something.”

Radewagen says with any local “signal of disharmony” on an issue, Congress is “likely to lay it aside, especially with very different bills, now seen as unlikely to go to conference, but if they did, and the House put forward a GOP bill with no NMI provisions since a Democrat version with the NMI is seen as

having little chance of advancing and the Senate offered its bill with the NMI provisions.

“Everything’s fair game, and it all depends on what deals need to be cut to get the legislation through. And if any particular member of Congress can say, ‘Well, look, there’s not unanimity



Radewagen

out in the islands on this provision,’ they’re likely to say, ‘Let’s let this go ‘til next year,’ said Radewagen.

Gov. Eloy Inos and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan who originally authored the congressional provisions, raised concerns locally this week. Inos is worried the

CNMI House measure by Rep. Felicidad Ogomoro could endanger a requested five-year CW transition extension and access to some 12,000 foreign workers.

All of this may now be academic. House GOP Whip Kevin McCarthy told reform protesters last weekend that there aren’t enough legislative days left this year to pass the immigration legislation. It will have to wait until 2014.

## US gives FSM \$33M in Compact payments in Oct.



Saladak School Garden Beds

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Ryan Edgar with *The Lesson Plan Book*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The fiscal year 2014 trust fund payment of \$26,104,960 was deposited to the FSM Trust Fund in October. The FSM Department of Finance received Compact Infrastructure Grant and Supplementary Education Grant payments from the U.S. government totaling \$7,202,837, for a total of \$33,307,797.

- Trust Fund Deposit: \$26,104,960
  - Supplementary Education Grants: \$ 5,000,000
  - Infrastructure Grants: \$ 2,202,837
  - Total Amount: \$33,307,797
- The \$33,307,797 was divided among the states and the FSM national government as follows:
- FSM Trust Fund: \$26,104,960
  - FSM national government: \$ 1,185,460
  - Chuuk: \$ 2,333,354
  - Kosrae: \$ 954,138
  - Pohnpei, \$ 1,288,974
  - Yap, \$ 1,440,911

OIA’s Education Grant manager Ryan Edgar visited Pohnpei in October. Ryan came to



Nett Elementary School Garden

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

assist the Pohnpei State and the FSM Education Departments prepare for the fiscal year 2015 budget process.

In addition to Ryan’s meetings with Pohnpei State and FSM Education Departments as

well as College of Micronesia, he visited several elementary schools and PICS High School.

When he stopped at Nett and Saladak Schools, he was happy to see that the newly built schools had adopted the school garden

program, which has been encouraged by USDA/NRCS and the U.S. Peace Corps.

A highlight of the trip was when Edgar saw the U.S. Compact funded lesson plan book being used in the school. (PR)

## 2 in Pohnpei undergo NCD prevention training

The U.S. Embassy in Kolonia is sponsoring an International Visitor Leadership project titled, “Improving Health and Nutrition,” to be conducted from Nov. 10 to 30, 2013. Two Public Health specialists, Dr. Elizabeth Keller and Moria Shomour, were selected to participate. All other participants in the project are from Pacific Island nations.

During the three-week project, Keller and Shomour will be provided opportunities to examine the role of U.S. federal, state, and

local governments and nongovernmental organizations in providing health and nutrition information and education. They will also be given the opportunity to learn how to advocate for policies that prevent non-communicable diseases through the use of increased activity levels and informative marketing for food consumption.

They will visit Public Health Departments in Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, Albuquerque, and Seattle. (U.S. Embassy)



L to R: Moria Shomour and Dr. Elizabeth Keller.

## Our Voyage: Celebrating the response to HIV in the Pacific

**SUVA, Fiji**—The launch of the photography book *Our Voyage: Stories of Triumph in the Response to HIV and other STIs in the Pacific* on Nov. 11 marked a number of significant achievements as a result of support from the Pacific Islands HIV and STI Response Fund, a grant funded by the Australian and New Zealand governments and managed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Public Health Division.

The book was launched by the President of the Republic of Fiji, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, and blessed by Maj. Iliesa Cola, Divisional Commander, The Salvation Army, at the Holiday Inn in Suva.

“SPC recognizes the importance of programming on STIs and sexual health and is consolidating the significant gains made to date as we look to the future, in partnership with Pacific Island Countries and Territories. STI prevention and control is a key priority as reflected in the new SPC Public Health Division strategy 2013–2022,” said Dr. Colin Tukuitonga, director of SPC’s Public Health Division.

“With rates of sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia as high as 32 percent, Pacific Island countries and territories are rising to the challenge—successfully implementing targeted prevention and behavior change communication campaigns, expanding voluntary HIV counseling and testing, strengthening laboratory services and improving chlamydia testing and treatment. PICTs are also collecting data on epidemiological trends to inform evidence-based decision-making and programming,” said Dr. Dennie Iniakwala, HIV and STI Team Leader at SPC.

Nauru and Cook Islands, for example, where chlamydia has been aggressively targeted, have made considerable progress. In 2009, 49 percent of pregnant women in Nauru had chlamydia. In Cook Islands, it was 20 percent. By 2012, the proportion of pregnant women with chlamydia in Nauru and Cook Islands had dropped to 4 percent and

11.5 percent respectively.

Targeted health communication campaigns are one of eight components of the regional STI control strategy successfully implemented by Cook Islands. Another key component of this strategy was targeted population-based presumptive chlamydia treatment. Such presumptive treatment—whereby infection is presumed in people at high risk of infection whether or not they show symptoms—rapidly reduces the chlamydia rate in targeted groups.

“Azithromycin was provided to the individuals with water, and they took the tablets on the spot. Booth style clinics were set up around the island so that people could drop in and take their medication,” explained Cook Islands National HIV STI coordinator Ana File.

A team of certified counselors, a doctor, and a laboratory technician provided mobile voluntary confidential counseling and testing on the islands of Aitutaki, Pukapuka, Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke, and Mangaia in Cook Islands in an effort to make STI testing more accessible. Over 800 people took advantage of the mobile testing service, including prison inmates.

“Mobile testing is important because outer islands do not always have access to HIV or STI testing. Making the effort to go to them means we can provide on the spot counseling, testing and treatment and confidentiality is assured,” said File.

Success in STI control is just one of 10 stories featured in the photography book, commissioned by SPC and the Pacific Response Fund Committee, the body responsible for guiding the management of the grant.

Other highlights include achievements in tackling stigma and discrimination and supporting people living with HIV in the Pacific, national strategic planning, laboratory strengthening, as well as meeting the sexual health needs of vulnerable groups such as men who have sex with men, sex workers, seafarers, and at risk children. (SPC)

# Business

## Deal reached to OK airline merger

**DALLAS** (AP)—American Airlines and US Airways reached a deal with the government that lets the two form the world's biggest airline and opens up more room at key U.S. airports for low-cost carriers.

The settlement announced Tuesday—if approved by a federal judge—would end a fight with the U.S. Justice Department and head off a courtroom showdown later this month.

It preserves hub airports in Phoenix, Philadelphia, Charlotte and four other cities for at least three years. And it caps a series of mergers that have already eliminated four big U.S. airlines and stoked fear about higher travel prices.

For American, the nation's third-biggest airline, the deal lets parent AMR Corp. exit bankruptcy protection, repay creditors and reward shareholders.

At US Airways, the No. 5 U.S. carrier, shareholders will

own 28 percent of the new company, employees stand to get more pay, and top executives will realize their dreams of running an airline even bigger than United or Delta.

The Justice Department said it extracted the largest divestitures ever in an airline merger. Attorney General Eric Holder said the agreement would ensure more competition on nonstop and connecting routes throughout the country.

For American and US Airways customers, they'll get reciprocal frequent-flyer benefits in January and, executives said, more service to more places eventually. Doug Parker, the US Airways CEO who will run the new airline, even suggested that customer service will improve because workers will share in a more prosperous industry.

William Baer, assistant attorney general for Justice's antitrust division, said that even

a few more gates and flights for low-fare carriers would help consumers. He said that when Southwest picked up slots at Newark, N.J., as part of the 2010 merger of United and Continental, it had a ripple effect that reduced fares on many routes.

The airlines were close to finishing the merger in August until the Justice Department and several states filed an antitrust lawsuit to block the deal, saying it would reduce competition on hundreds of routes around the country and lead to higher consumer prices. A trial was scheduled to begin Nov. 25.

To avoid the uncertainty of a trial, American and US Airways agreed to give up about 15 percent of their takeoff and landing rights at Reagan National Airport near Washington—they'll still be the biggest airline there—and a smaller number of slots at LaGuardia Airport in New York.



A woman carries her baby across an area damaged by Typhoon Haiyan at Tacloban city, Leyte province, central Philippines on Tuesday Nov. 12, 2013.

## Haiyan highlights weak PH infrastructure

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Under a reforming president, the Philippines emerged as a rising economic star in Asia but the trail of death and destruction left by Typhoon Haiyan has highlighted a key weakness: fragile and patchy infrastructure after decades of neglect and corruption.

Authorities fear that the storm that tore through Leyte province in the country's east has killed thousands. More than 600,000 people have been displaced. Low rates of insurance in the Philippines mean the disaster is likely to sap government finances but analysts say it might not slow growth significantly because of the small role the affected region plays in the wider economy.

Haiyan's devastation, however, underlines the pressing need to spend more money to build hard assets such as more roads, ports and power lines—not only to improve living standards but also to better withstand the storms, earthquakes and other natural disasters that strike the country with numbing regularity.

The Philippines has the lowest percentage of paved roads when compared with neighbors Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore, according to data compiled by foreign business groups in the Philippines in 2010. It also had the worst scores in other key indicators such as fixed phone lines, households with power and electricity lost in transmission.

"It's hard to prepare for the worst storm in the world," said HSBC economist Trinh Nguyen. "But at the same time one of the issues now is there isn't a way to access these places that are severely hit. The roads are not there."

The Philippines is the country that's most at risk to natural hazards, according to UK-based risk analysis firm Maplecroft. The country loses \$1.6 billion dollars a year on average each year because of such disasters, according to the Asian Development Bank. Haiyan, likely the most powerful storm on record, was just one of 20 typhoons that hit the country each year and arrived as it was still recovering from a 7.2 magnitude quake in October that killed 220.

# Nation



This combination made from file photos shows Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower, in Chicago on March 12, 2008, left, and 1 World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 5, 2013.

## NY's One World Trade Center named the tallest US building

**NEW YORK** (AP)—They set out to build the tallest skyscraper in the world—a giant that would rise a symbolic 1,776 feet from the ashes of ground zero.

Those aspirations of global supremacy fell by the wayside long ago, but New York won a consolation prize Tuesday when an international architectural panel said it would recognize One World Trade Center as the tallest skyscraper in the United States.

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, considered a world authority on supersized skyscrapers, announced its decision at simultaneous news conferences in New York and Chicago, home to the 1,451-foot Willis Tower, which is being dethroned as the nation's tallest building.

Measuring the height of a

building would seem to be a simple thing, but in the case of the new World Trade Center tower it is complicated by the 408-foot-tall needle atop the skyscraper's roof.

The council's verdict rested on a conclusion that the needle should be counted as part of the building's total height. Without it, the tower would be just 1,368 feet tall, the same height as the original World Trade Center. That would make it smaller than not only the Willis, but also a 1,397-foot apartment building being built a short subway ride away near Central Park.

Speaking at his office in New York, council chairman Timothy Johnson, an architect at the global design firm NBBJ, said the decision by the 25-member height committee had more

"tense moments" than usual, given the skyscraper's importance as a patriotic symbol.

"I was here on 9/11. I saw the buildings come down," he said.

Over the past few months, the council had hinted that it might be open to changing its standards for measuring ultra-tall buildings, given a trend toward developers adding "vanity height" to towers with huge, decorative spires.

But the council also has a history of disallowing antennas in height calculations. The Empire State Building's landmark 204-foot needle isn't counted in its height measurement. Neither are the two TV antennas atop the Willis Tower, which had been the country's tallest building since it was completed—and named the Sears Tower—in 1974.

## Ohio boy who came home for early Christmas dies

**TOLEDO, Ohio** (AP)—A boy whose last wish was to be home for his favorite holiday has died, two weeks after his hometown welcomed him with a Christmas tree outside his window and a motorcycle-riding Santa Claus.

Doctors had told the family of 13-year-old Devin Kohlman that he didn't have long to live so residents in the city of Port Clinton along Lake Erie spent the past few weeks giving him an early Christmas.

They sang carols outside the family's apartment, piled tons of shaved ice into drifting snow near his window and decorated a park with colorful strings of lights, reindeer cutouts and a red

"Merry Christmas, Devin" sign.

Devin, who was diagnosed with brain cancer in the summer of 2012, died Monday afternoon, his family said. Relatives and friends gathered for a vigil after his death while an early-season snow fell over the city.

"He had the gift of being able to see how much everyone loved him," his mother, Alexis Kohlman, said Tuesday.

Devin was flown from Cincinnati, where he was being treated, to Port Clinton on Oct. 27 so that he could spend his final days at home. Residents filled the city's main street late at night as Devin was driven home with a police escort.



Kohlman

While he couldn't go outside, he could see from a window how the community was helping his last wish come true.

Hundreds of people, some in Santa hats, sang Christmas carols after his return and Santa himself showed up on a motorcycle.

"It brought him a sense of joy to know so many people cared," said family friend Roseann Hickman.

Thousands of cards from as far away as France, Australia, and Russia filled the family's apartment. They had been sent by people who had heard his story.

"We read as many of the cards as we could to him," his mother said. "He's reminded everybody all over the world of what's important and that's love."

## Asia

## Rice looted in Philippines amid aid shortage

By KRISTEN GELINEAU and  
JIM GOMEZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**TACLOBAN, Philippines** (AP)—Thousands of people stormed a rice warehouse on an island devastated by Typhoon Haiyan, authorities said Wednesday, highlighting the urgent need to get water, food and medical supplies into an increasingly desperate region.

Five days after one of the strongest tropical storms on record leveled tens of thousands of houses in the central Philippines, relief operations were only starting to pick up pace, with two more airports in the region reopening, allowing for more aid flights.

But minimal food and water was reaching people in the devastated city of Tacloban, on Leyte island, which bore the brunt of the storm, and outlying regions due to a lack of trucks and blocked roads.

“There’s a bit of a logjam to be absolutely honest getting stuff in here,” said Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

“You’ve had quite a lot of security coming in over the last couple of days, less so other things. So then it gets here and then we’re going to have a real challenge with logistics in terms of getting things out of here, into town, out of town, into the other areas,” he said from the airport in Tacloban.

“The reason for that essentially is that there are no trucks, the roads are all closed.”

In the first reported deaths as a result of looting, eight people were crushed to death Tuesday when a wall collapsed as they and thousands of others stormed a rice warehouse on Leyte Island, said National Food Authority spokesman Rex Estoperez.



Soldiers rush a typhoon survivor after she collapsed in a queue to board a military transport plane Wednesday Nov. 13, 2013 from the damaged Tacloban airport in Tacloban city, Leyte province in central Philippines.

The looters in Alangalang municipality carted away up to 100,000 sacks of rice, he said.

Since the storm, people have broken into homes, malls and garages, where they have stripped the shelves of food, water and other goods. Authorities have struggled to stop the looting. There have been unconfirmed reports of armed gangs involved in some instances.

Police were working to keep order across the ravaged wasteland. An 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew was in place.

“We have restored order,” said Carmelo Espina Valmorra, director of the Philippine National Police special action force. “There has been looting for the last three days, (but) the situation has stabilized.”

U.S. Brig Gen. Paul Ken-

nedy said that later Wednesday his troops would install equipment at Tacloban airport to allow planes to land at night. Tacloban, a city of 220,000, was almost completely destroyed in Friday’s typhoon and has become the main relief hub.

“You are not just going to see Marines and a few planes and some helicopters,” Kennedy said. “You will see the entire Pacific Command respond to this crisis.”

A Norwegian ship carrying supplies left from Manila, while an Australian air force transport plane took off from Canberra carrying a medical team. British and American navy vessels are also en route to the region.

At the damaged airport in Tacloban, makeshift clinics have been set up and thousands of

people were looking for a flight out. A doctor here said supplies of antibiotics and anesthetics arrived Tuesday for the first time.

“Until then, patients had to endure the pain,” said Dr. Victoriano Sambale.

At least 580,000 people have been displaced by the disaster. In some places, tsunami-like storm surges swept

up to one-kilometer (mile) inland, causing more destruction and loss of life. Most of the death and destruction appears concentrated on the islands of Samar and Leyte.

The damaged infrastructure and bad communications links made a conclusive death toll difficult to estimate.

The official toll from a na-

## After disaster, tallying death tolls difficult

By CHRIS BRUMMITT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—In the chaos of natural disaster, tallying an accurate death toll is often difficult and sometimes not a priority.

The aftermath of the Philippines typhoon has been no different, where initial estimates of the dead were put by some at 10,000. On Tuesday, President Benigno Aquino disputed that, saying it likely to be closer to 2,000 or 2,500. In the meantime, an official tally shows the number at 1,883.

In one sense, it matters little outside of newsrooms. Any number of dead is a tragedy, whether it be 2,000, 3,000 or 10,000. In terms of planning emergency relief operations, the amount of people needing assistance and damage to infrastructure are often more important. Over time, a final toll is tallied, or in the case of larger disasters, an estimate agreed upon.

Downed communication line making it impossible to get up to date information; shattered local administrations unable to

## Death toll hits 2,275 in PH typhoon

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The official death toll as a result of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines has risen to 2,275.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council released the figures on Wednesday afternoon.

It said 3,655 were injured, with a further 80 missing.

work to full capacity; villagers burying their dead immediately or bodies being sucked out to sea and not being counted.

Similar factors were cited in the aftermath of the 2004 Asian tsunami, where in some instances separate government departments in Indonesia were giving out significantly different figures, each unconcerned about the confusion this created.

On Sunday, two days after the typhoon in the Philippines, a regional police official told reporters that the death toll was estimated at 10,000, based on reports from local village chiefs collected by the governor. The same day, the mayor of Tacloban city, one of the worst-hit ar-

regional disaster agency rose to 1,883 on Tuesday. President Benigno Aquino III told CNN in a televised interview that the toll could be closer to 2,000 or 2,500, lower than an earlier estimate from two officials on the ground who said they feared as many as 10,000 might be dead.

“There is a huge amount that we need to do. We have not been able to get into the remote communities,” U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said in Manila, launching an appeal for \$301 million to help the more than 11 million people estimated to be affected by the storm.

“Even in Tacloban, because of the debris and the difficulties with logistics and so on, we have not been able to get in the level of supply that we would want to. We are going to do as much as we can to bring in more,” she said. Her office said she planned to visit the city.

Relief officials said comparing the pace of this operation to those in past disasters was difficult.

In Indonesia’s Aceh, the worst-hit region by the 2004 tsunami, relief hubs were easier to set up than in Tacloban. The main airport there was functioning 24 hours a day within a couple of days of the disaster. While devastation in much of the city of Banda Aceh was total, large inland parts of the city were undamaged, providing a base for aid operations and temporary accommodation for the homeless.

## After disaster, tallying death tolls difficult

## Aid operations pick up pace in Philippines

**TACLOBAN, Philippines** (AP)—Relief operations in this typhoon-devastated region of the Philippines picked up pace Wednesday, but still only minimal amounts of water, food and medical supplies were making it to the hardest-hit areas.

Aviation authorities said two more airports in the region had reopened, allowing for more aid flights.

International agencies and militaries were also speeding up operations to get staff, supplies and equipment in place for what will be a major humanitarian mission.

The damaged airport on Tacloban, a coastal city of 220,000 almost completely destroyed by Friday’s typhoon and coastal surge, has become the major

hub for relief work.

A doctor at a makeshift clinic here said supplies of antibiotics and anesthetics arrived Tuesday for the first time.

“Until then, patients had to endure the pain,” said Dr. Victoriano Sambale.

The storm displaced at least 580,000 people across the region, in many cases leveling their homes.

Damaged infrastructure and bad communications links made a conclusive death toll difficult to estimate.

The official toll from a national disaster agency rose to 1,883 on Tuesday. President Benigno Aquino III told CNN in a televised interview that the toll could be closer to 2,000 or

2,500, lower than an earlier estimate from two officials on the ground who said they feared as many as 10,000 might be dead.

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reas, estimated that 10,000 could have died in his city alone.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council updated its death toll on Wednesday to 1,883 dead, with 84 missing. That figure is an actual body count from affected regions and has been steadily increasing since day one of the disaster.

President Aquino, in a televised interview with CNN, said that figure of 10,000 feared or estimated dead, which has been widely quoted in the local and international media, was “too much.” He said “so far 2,000, about 2,500, is the number we are working on as far as deaths are concerned.”

# World

## Syria war leads to rise of kidnappings in Lebanon

**BEIRUT (AP)**—For nearly three weeks, kidnappers held Lebanese pharmacist Wissam Khatib, threatening to kill him and his children if his family didn't pay a ransom of tens of thousands of dollars.

During his captivity, Khatib—often shackled and blindfolded—went through depression, terror, pain. But, he says, the trauma was not a surprise. A well-to-do pharmacist in the eastern Lebanese city of Zahleh, the 40-year-old Khatib knew he was a target.

He had escaped one kidnapping attempt in August, when he saw masked gunmen approaching his pharmacy and fled before they saw him. He expected them to return, knowing that Lebanon's weak security forces couldn't help him.

"The state knew, security forces knew, but they didn't help me at all," Khatib told The Associated Press.

Hostage-taking of wealthy

businessmen in Lebanon has risen more than seven-fold in an unlikely knock-on effect from Syria's civil war. Security officials say gangs who once made their money smuggling fuel and contraband through the porous Syria-Lebanon border have watched their trade wither because of the violence, so they are turning to kidnapping to make a profit.

Lebanon is suffering multiple woes from the war next door. The tiny country, with a population of 4.5 million, has been flooded with an estimated 1 million Syrians fleeing the conflict. Also, tensions between its Sunni and Shiite communities have spiked, sometimes exploding into deadly clashes, mirroring the sectarian hatreds in Syria, where Sunnis largely support the rebellion, and Shiites and the Alawite sect—an offshoot of Shiism—back President Bashar Assad.

In the latest violence, a

Sunni sheik, Saad El-Deen Ghieh, was shot to death in his car Tuesday by gunmen in the northern city of Tripoli, scene of frequent clashes between Sunnis and Alawites in connection with Syria's war.

In contrast, the kidnapping wave—a more indirect repercussion—illustrates the multiple, unexpected ways that Lebanon, with its fragile hold on security, is vulnerable to the turmoil across the border. There are fears the problem could spread—and that abductions could spread beyond criminal activity and into political motives—as Syria's war, which began in March 2011, continues.

"The reason why there are so many kidnappings is because the state is failing. State security is unable and cannot work," warned Lebanese security analyst Nizar Abdul-Qader.

Security officials acknowledge they are overwhelmed by the mounting problems rooted

in Syria's conflict.

"The weight on the state is heavy—it's above what the state can handle," said one official in the Interior Ministry, which in charge of security forces. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press. He said such kidnappings for ransom in the past were "very, very rare."

Lebanon's Internal Security Forces recorded 73 kidnappings between August 2011 and Sep-

tember 2013. In contrast, there were 14 cases total in the previous five years.

Most of the abductions take place in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, where heavily armed clans hold sway, some of them involved in the smuggling trade.

Gangs once made their money sneaking cheap cigarettes, fuel, clothes and other items into Lebanon from Syria. But now, unable to freely pass through areas in Syria that have become

war zones, they've turned their hand to kidnappings at home, three security officials told AP, speaking on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the press. They've found accomplices among Syrian and Lebanese men struggling in Lebanon's economy, hit hard by the war next door, the officials said.

The kidnapping is creating a sense of palpable panic. Lebanese media routinely runs pleas from families of the abducted.



In this Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013 photo, a Lebanese released hostage pharmacist, Wissam Khatib, tries to check the ear of a child, at his pharmacy in Zahleh town, in the Bekaa valley, east Lebanon.

## German stolen art website down because of demand

**BERLIN (AP)**—A website featuring artworks from among a massive trove discovered in a Munich apartment crashed Tuesday because of heavy traffic, officials said, as a handful of potential heirs came forward to claim art possibly looted by the Nazis.

Authorities posted 25 paintings from the more than 1,400 paintings, drawings and other works discovered in the apartment of 80-year-old Cornelius Gurlitt, the son of a dealer who worked with the Nazis. But the website—www.lostart.de—was overwhelmed by interest, according to Sabine Kramer from the government-run Lost Art Internet Database.

"There are simply too many people who want to look at the pictures and that's why we're facing technical problems," Kramer said.

As German officials scrambled to respond to criticism that they have been slow to make details public, several families came forward to stake their claims. Among them were the heirs of Fritz Salo Glaser, a Jewish lawyer from Dresden, who a lawyer says owned 13 of the 25 paintings listed online.

Officials had initially released few details about what was found in Gurlitt's apartment in part of an ongoing tax investigation, but the haul was known to have included works by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and others. Bowing to demands to release more information, the government said Monday it believes about 590 of the more than 1,400 artworks may have been stolen by the Nazis.



Photo provided by the Augsburg, southern Germany, prosecution Monday, Nov. 11, 2013 shows Otto Griebel's 'Kind am Tisch' (Child at a table) that was among the more than 1400 art works that were seized by German authorities in an apartment in Munich in February 2012.

It said the website would be regularly updated so people and institutions could tell if they had legitimate claims, but declined to give a time frame for the publication of the other artworks in question. The government also said a task force made up of six experts started working Tuesday on identifying possible former owners.

Looted art was stolen or bought for a pittance from Jewish collectors who were forced to sell under duress during the Third Reich. For the heirs of those collectors, the discovery has raised hopes, while the slow release of information has stirred frustration.

On Tuesday, Jewish groups and art experts welcomed the publication of the 25 paintings, but demanded that the rest be made public quickly.

"It's an important signal that the government intervened after the outrage about the silence surrounding the looted art," said Deidre Berger from the American Jewish Committee in Berlin. "But it's too little, too late. If the government is serious about this, they should get the information up in a way that everybody can access it—people worldwide have a legitimate interest in this."

Prosecutors in the Bavarian city of Augsburg, who are handing the case, acknowledged receiving requests for details from people or institutions with a possible claim to some of the works, but would not say how many.

Lawyer Sabine Rudolph, who represents Glaser's heirs, said that 13 paintings on the website belonged to him before the Nazis came to power. Rudolph said when the Nazis no longer allowed Glaser to work as a lawyer after 1933, he had to sell his art collection to make a living.

"The family, who still lives in Dresden, is very happy about the art found and of course they want them back," Rudolph told The Associated Press, adding that she already had asked Augsburg prosecutors for access to the records.

Among the paintings listed online as formerly belonging to Glaser posted are Otto Griebel's "Child at the Table," a water color featuring a red-cheeked boy with tousled blond hair, and Conrad Felixmueller's "Couple in a Landscape," which shows a man and a woman in front of pine trees and a birch painted in an expressionist style.

## China, Russia, Cuba win UN rights council seats

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Cuba and Algeria won seats Tuesday on the U.N. Human Rights Council, riling independent human rights groups who said their election undermined the rights watchdog's credibility.

The General Assembly elected 14 new members to the 47-seat Geneva-based council, which can shine a spotlight on rights abuses by adopting resolutions—when it chooses to do so. It also has dozens of special monitors watching problem countries and major issues ranging from executions to drone strikes.

Britain, France, the Maldives, Macedonia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia and South Africa were also elected to three-year terms.

Human Rights Watch noted that five of the new council members—China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Algeria—have refused to let U.N. investigators visit to check alleged abuses. China, Russia and Algeria have 10 or more unfulfilled requests for visits by U.N. experts, some dating back to 2000, the group said. Saudi Arabia and Vietnam each have seven outstanding requests, they said.

"Countries that haven't al-

lowed U.N. experts appointed by the council to visit have a lot of explaining to do," said Peggy Hicks, global advocacy director of the New York-based non-government group. "It's like hiring someone, then not allowing them to enter the office."

Across the street from the main gate of U.N. headquarters, pro-Tibet activists hung a huge banner saying "China Fails Human Rights."

Seats, allotted by region, are sometimes contested and sometimes not. All 193 members of the General Assembly can vote by secret ballots, which were collected in wooden ballot boxes from delegates.

Geneva-based UN Watch, a frequent critic of U.N. rights practices, denounced what it considered the worst new members.

"China, Cuba, Russia, and Saudi Arabia systematically violate the human rights of their own citizens, and they consistently vote the wrong way on U.N. initiatives to protect the human rights of others," said UN Watch executive director Hillel Neuer. "For the U.N. to elect Saudi Arabia as a world judge on human rights would be like a town making a pyromaniac into chief of the fire

department.

"Regrettably, so far neither the U.S. nor the EU have said a word about hypocritical candidacies that will undermine the credibility and effectiveness of the UN human rights system. By turning a blind eye as human rights violators easily join and subvert the council, leading democracies will be complicit in the world body's moral decline."

UN Watch and other groups have also criticized the Human Rights Council for its preoccupation with reports and resolutions criticizing Israel over the Palestinian issue. By contrast, Neuer said that the council has never adopted a resolution critical of Russia, China or Saudi Arabia.

This year's election had some added backstage drama. Saudi Arabia had been expected to run into trouble in the General Assembly vote because last month it won, and then a day later rejected, a seat on the Security Council for 2014-2015, an unprecedented move. The kingdom was apparently protesting differences with the United States on issues in the Middle East, including Washington's response to the Egypt and Syria crises and its outreach with Iran, the Saudis' regional foe.

# Environment

## Experts: Man, nature share typhoon tragedy blame

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP SCIENCE WRITER

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Nature and man together cooked up the disaster in the Philippines.

Geography, meteorology, poverty, shoddy construction, a booming population, and, to a much lesser degree, climate change combine to make the Philippines the nation most vulnerable to killer typhoons, according to several scientific studies.

And Typhoon Haiyan was one mighty storm.

Haiyan slammed the island nation with a storm surge two stories high and some of the highest winds ever measured in a tropical cyclone—195 mph (314 kph) as clocked by U.S. satellites, or 147 mph (237 kph) based on local reports. An untold number of homes were blown away, and thousands of people are feared dead.

“You have a very intense event hitting a very susceptible part of the world. It’s that combination of nature and man,” said MIT tropical meteorology professor Kerry Emanuel. “If one of those ingredients were missing, you wouldn’t have a disaster.”

The 7,000 islands of the Philippines sit in the middle of the world’s most storm-prone region, which gets some of the biggest typhoons because of vast expanses of warm water that act as fuel and few pieces of land to slow storms down.

Half the storms on an informal list of the strongest ones to hit land in the 20th and 21st centuries ended up striking the Philippines, according to re-



Survivors walk past damaged houses at typhoon ravaged Tacloban city, Leyte province, central Philippines on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013.

search by Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the Weather Underground.

Storms often hit after they’ve peaked in strength or before they get a chance to, but Haiyan struck when it was at its most powerful, based on U.S. satellite observations, Emanuel said.

Humans played a big role in this disaster, too—probably bigger than nature’s, meteorologists said. University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy figures that 75 to 80 percent of the devastation can be

blamed on the human factor.

Meteorologists point to extreme poverty and huge growth in population—much of it in vulnerable coastal areas with poor construction, including storm shelters that didn’t hold up against Haiyan.

More than 4 out of 10 Filipinos live in a storm-prone vulnerable city of more than 100,000, according to a 2012 World Bank study. The Haiyan-devastated provincial capital of Tacloban City nearly tripled from about 76,000 to

221,000 in just 40 years.

About one-third of Tacloban City’s homes have wooden exterior walls. And 1 in 7 homes have grass roofs, according to the census office.

Those factors—especially flimsy construction—were so important that a weaker storm would have still caused almost as much devastation, McNoldy said.

“You end up with these kind of urban time bombs, where cities have doubled, tripled, quadrupled in size in 50 years”

without good building standards, said Richard Olson, director of the Extreme Events Institute at Florida International University. “It is, I hate to say, an all-too-familiar pattern.”

Scientists say man-made global warming has contributed to rising seas and a general increase in strength in the most powerful tropical cyclones. But they won’t specifically apply these factors to Haiyan, saying it is impossible to attribute single weather events, like the typhoon, to climate change.

A 2008 study found that in the northwestern Pacific where Haiyan formed, the top 1 percent of the strongest tropical cyclones over the past 30 years are getting on average about 1 mph stronger each year—a phenomenon some scientists suspect is a consequence of global warming.

“The strongest storms are getting stronger” said study co-author James Kossin of the National Climatic Data Center. Haiyan “is what potentially could be a good example of the kind of the things we’re finding.”

Similarly, the Philippines has seen its sea rise nearly half an inch in the past 20 years—about triple the global increase, according to R. Steven Nerem of the University of Colorado. Higher sea levels can add to storm surge, creating slightly greater flooding.

Just as human factors can worsen a disaster, they can also lessen it, through stronger buildings, better warnings and a quicker government response.

Emanuel said poverty-stricken Bangladesh had much bigger losses of life from cyclones in the 1970s than it does now. The international community built strong evacuation shelters that get used frequently, he said.

“The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone places on Earth,” said Kathleen Tierney, director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado. “They’ve got it all. They’ve got earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, tropical cyclones, landslides.”

## Christmas lights are going green

By **STEVE EVERLY**  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Traditional but energy-thirsty incandescent Christmas lights are facing a dim future.

Holiday light bulbs were exempted from the federal law that’s phasing out other incandescent bulbs, and that seemingly ensured that they could keep decorating trees, decking halls and providing seasonal cheer. But now they’re being put to a test as fearsome as a government regulation: competition.

LEDs—super-efficient lights that use a lot less energy than incandescent bulbs—have been around for years. LED stands for “light-emitting diode,” which creates light by moving electrons over a semiconductor material, instead of heating up a filament, as a traditional bulb does.

LED technology was expensive, which limited the lights’ appeal, but prices have dropped dramatically. A couple of years ago, LEDs to replace a 60-watt bulb cost \$40, but they can now

be found for under \$10.

And LED Christmas lights are cheap enough that the larger ones save enough energy compared with incandescents that most of their purchase cost can be recovered within a year.

The shift is showing up at stores, which are selling more of the efficient lights. Wal-Mart is devoting half of its shelf space for Christmas lights to LEDs and offering a string of 50 mini LED lights for \$5, down from \$6.30 last year.

“We know our customers are gravitating toward them,” said Debbie Serr, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman.

Costco is selling no incandescent Christmas lights at all.

General Electric, which has peddled holiday lighting for more than a century, expects that two out of every five strings of lights sold this year will be LEDs.

Sales of the lights were up 50 percent last year at the Light Bulbs Etc. store in Lenexa, Kan., and while it’s

too early to say how they’ll do this season, sales are expected to be strong again.

“I think eventually we’ll see Christmas incandescents go away,” said Larry Fuqua, general manager of the store.

ChristmasLightInstaller.com, which sells, rents and installs Christmas lights in several cities including Kansas City, says that 30 percent of new customers are migrating to LEDs.

A Christmas without incandescent lights on a tree? That would end an era that stretches back to the invention of the first successful and practical light bulb.

Thomas Edison, the inventor, is also credited with first using them as Christmas decorations when he strung some bulbs outside his laboratory in 1880. A couple of years later, an associate used electric lights to decorate a Christmas tree. That was soon copied by the wealthy, who could afford a price tag of up to \$2,000 in today’s dollars to decorate just one tree, according to the Library of Congress.

That changed in 1903, when General Electric introduced pre-

assembled Christmas lights, and other companies rushed in to snag some of the business.

NOMA Electric Co., which would corner the market for Christmas lights, is credited with making them an iconic part of the holidays. Worried about sales in the Great Depression, the company featured nostalgic advertisements of families gathered around a lighted tree. Sales rose and the company survived. (NOMA went bankrupt in the 1960s because of foreign imports.)

Today’s nostalgic moments are increasingly being lit with LEDs, which can save about 80 percent or more of the energy used by incandescent bulbs.

Compact fluorescent lights, or CFLs, are still the main energy-efficient option for other lighting, such as 60-watt bulbs for lamps. They don’t save as much energy as LEDs, but they’re cheaper to buy. But LEDs are expected to make inroads in that market as their price declines.

CFLs aren’t suitable as replacements for Christmas lights, making LEDs the alternative for

energy efficiency.

Holiday lights would seem an unlikely target for a push to save energy. They’re used a few hours a day over at most a couple of months and then packed and put away. But during that short period, they use enough electricity to provide power to 200,000 homes for a year, according to a U.S. Department of Energy study.

Terry McGowan, director of engineering and technology for the American Lighting Association, said no one expected to see LED prices fall so fast. But he saw the effect earlier this year when he stepped into a trade show where retailers purchased Christmas lights to sell this holiday season and found most of them being offered were LEDs.

“We are going to see a lot of action,” he said.

The economic payoff from LEDs varies considerably. LEDs replacing small incandescent bulbs still take a few years to recover their extra cost. But the larger the incandescent bulb and the energy usage, the more an LED can save.

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**FREE BIRDS 3D** [CC] (PG) (430 PM)

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**GRAVITY** [CC,DV] (PG-13) (440 PM)

# Life & Style

## Francis Bacon artwork sets auction record in NY



AP

This undated photo provided by Christie's shows "Three Studies of Lucian Freud," a triptych by Francis Bacon of his friend and artist Lucian Freud.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A 1969 painting by Francis Bacon set a world record for most expensive artwork ever sold at auction.

"Three Studies of Lucian Freud" was purchased for \$142,405,000 at Christie's post-war and contemporary art sale on Tuesday night. The triptych depicts Bacon's artist friend.

The work sold after "6 minutes of fierce bidding in the room and on the phone," Christie's said in a statement. The price includes the buyer's premium. Christie's did not say who bought the painting.

The price surpassed the nearly \$120 million paid for Edvard Munch's "The Scream," which set a world record when it was sold at Sotheby's in a 2012 sale.

The previous record for Bacon's artwork sold at auction

was his 1976 "Triptych." That sold for \$86 million in 2008.

Among other highlights scheduled to be auctioned at Christie's is a bright orange-yellow and white oil painting by Mark Rothko. Reminiscent of a radiating sunset, the 1957 large-scale "Untitled (No. 11)" could fetch up to \$35 million. In May 2012, Christie's sold Rothko's "Orange, Red, Yellow" for \$86.8 million, a record for any contemporary artwork at auction.

Christie's also has an iconic Andy Warhol, "Coca-Cola (3)," estimated to sell for \$40 million to \$60 million. The Warhol auction record is \$71.7 million for "Green Car Crash (Green Burning Car I)," sold in 2007.

On Wednesday evening, Sotheby's is offering Warhol's

"Silver Car Crash (Double Disaster)," a provocative double-panel painting that could bring as much as \$80 million.

Warhol produced four paintings in the "Death and Disaster" series. The other three are in museums.

Measuring 8 feet by 13 feet, the 1963 silver work captures the immediate aftermath of a car crash, a twisted body sprawled across its mangled interior. It has been seen in public only once in the past 26 years.

Other blue-chip offerings at Christie's on Tuesday include Jeff Koons' whimsical "Balloon Dog (Orange)," a 10-foot-tall stainless steel sculpture resembling a twisted child's party balloon. It is expected to sell for up to \$55 million. It is one of five balloon dogs Koons

has created in different colors. All are in private hands. It is being sold by newsprint magnate Peter Brant to benefit his Brant Foundation Art Study in Greenwich, Conn.

Also on tap is a masterpiece by German painter Gerhard Richter from the collection of Eric Clapton. Painted in gold and orange hues, the 1994 "Abstract Painting" is estimated to bring as much as \$20 million. Richter's photo-based "Cathedral Square, Milan" brought \$37 million at Sotheby's in May, setting a record for any living artist at auction.

## Kim Kardashian cited for speeding on LA freeway

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Kim Kardashian was cited for speeding Tuesday after a California Highway Patrol officer spotted the reality star apparently being chased by paparazzi on a Los Angeles freeway.

CHP Officer Ming Hsu said Kardashian was pulled over at about 1 p.m. on the 101 Freeway near the Van Nuys Boulevard exit. Three other cars apparently driven by paparazzi were also stopped, although two of them left the scene before an officer was able to talk to the photographers, according to a news release.

The third photographer, Juliana A. Goncalves, pulled around Kardashian's vehicle and started taking pictures. He was cited for speeding and stopping in a non-emergency situation, Hsu said.

An email sent to a representative for Kardashian was not immediately returned. Attempts to reach Goncalves for comment were unsuccessful.

Kardashian, 33, who stars along with her family in the reality series "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," has generally had a good relationship with the paparazzi. Her fiancé, rapper Kanye West, however, has had several skirmishes with celebrity photographers.

## Bullied classmate is surprised by apologies, hugs at reunion

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm writing regarding "Lost for Words" (July 7), who skipped her 10-year high school reunion because she was bullied in school. (She is now receiving Facebook messages from former classmates who want to apologize.)

That letter could have been about me! I was bullied all through school, too. Things were so bad I honestly don't know how I kept it together. I never even told my parents how bad it was until years after I had graduated.

My class (1972) had their 10-year reunion and I went, although I almost didn't because I was scared. When I got there, I was given hugs by classmates. Some of them apologized, and it was wonderful. I enjoyed myself so much that I helped organize our 20th and 25th reunions.

"Lost," you can either keep reliving those painful moments and continue to suffer, or rise above it, prove to your classmates and yourself that they can't hurt you anymore and get to know each other now as peers.

Counseling helped me to learn to deal with bad things in my life. Don't get me wrong, I still have some issues and life isn't always easy, but I have learned to let go and forgive these people. They, too, have grown up and are now mature adults who know right from wrong.

CATHY IN ESTERHAZY, CANADA

**DEAR CATHY:** Thank you for sharing your experience and insights along with many other readers who were bullied in school. One common denominator in their letters was the word "forgiveness." Interestingly, I received none from the bullies themselves! Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** As middle school teachers, we do our best to curtail abuse, but it happens behind the scenes. The targets can remain bullied for years, as the writer expressed. It is sad that this person is affected to this day, 10 years after graduation.

I agree the target has no obligation to forgive the bullies, but this would be a perfect time to send a strong message to them via her Facebook page. An article on the effects of bullying could be posted with a message that if the bullies truly want forgiveness, they should pass this life lesson on to their children who may be engaged in similar behavior.

MARY ANN IN NEW YORK

**DEAR ABBY:** When I attended my 10th reunion, the people who had bullied me apologized and I told them I forgave them. I just attended my 30th reunion, and some of the same bullies asked again for my forgiveness. They are in a self-imposed prison of guilt from which they will be free only when they can ACCEPT that I forgive them. My advice to "Lost" is to respond to the Facebook messages with a thank-you, and leave it at that.

DAWNA IN MONTANA

**DEAR ABBY:** Three years ago, I went to my 50th. It was the only reunion I ever attended. Halfway through the event, the "bully brigade" came up to me to apologize for their behavior. I hadn't thought about it and was having a great time. But suddenly, I was emotionally thrown back into those years of hating school because of how I was treated.

On my way out, I confronted the worst bully. I told her her apology was NOT accepted, and they could all keep their apologies and hold onto their guilt for another 50 years. The minute I said it, it was like a great burden had been lifted from my shoulders.

ANNE IN OHIO

**DEAR ABBY:** I was a late bloomer. When the time came for my 30th reunion, I was a successful, confident millionaire with a knockout blond wife, and I looked years younger than my age. My classmates were bald, wrinkled or saggy. There was no 40th reunion—they had all given up. Living well really IS the best revenge.

HAPPY IN THE SOUTH

## iTunes to allow donations for typhoon relief

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Apple is giving iTunes users a chance to donate to relief efforts for the typhoon tragedy in the Philippines.

Users can go to the iTunes store to donate to the American Red Cross; funds raised will go to help the Asian

nation, which has been devastated by Typhoon Haiyan (HY'-ahn). The official death toll is over 1,700, but as many as 10,000 are feared dead and more than 9 million people have been affected.

iTunes has done the same to raise funds for those affected by

other tragedies, most recently for Superstorm Sandy. Apple says it was able to donate \$2.5 million for Sandy relief based on donations from iTunes users and its own employees.

Apple said Tuesday it didn't have a specific end-date for the campaign.

## Baldwin denies relationship with stalking suspect

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It was, Alec Baldwin said, "like something out of Hitchcock": He waits in the wings of a Lincoln Center stage before a movie-screening discussion. He looks out to see his tormentor in a front-row seat. She turns to him. And smiles.

That was one of several scenes in a personal drama the "30 Rock" actor described Tuesday, as the star witness against Genevieve Sabourin, a small-time Canadian actress charged with stalking him.

"It was nightmarish," Baldwin said during a morning of testimony that at times approached theater in itself. Sabourin unleashed a stream of

outbursts—"He's lying!" for instance—that prompted a judge to warn that he might remove her from court.

Baldwin sometimes came close to playing director, dilating on points he wanted to make, telling Sabourin's lawyer he sounded nervous and musing about having thought of turning Sabourin's voicemail messages into a play. And the famously testy actor left court with an acerbic comment for news photographers.

Baldwin and the Manhattan district attorney's office say it's a case of an acquaintance with a movie star turning into harassment. Sabourin says it was a romance that fell apart.

Baldwin, 55, said he met Sabourin at a lunch with a mutual friend in 2000 in Montreal, where Baldwin was filming a cameo in the sci-fi comedy "The Adventures of Pluto Nash."

Sabourin, 41, hails from the Montreal suburb of Canada and was working as a publicist for the movie. She also has appeared in some Canadian films and TV series.

Ten years later, the friend asked Baldwin for a favor, the actor testified: Would he give some career advice to Sabourin?

So Baldwin and Sabourin met at a New York restaurant in 2010 for what he characterizes as an hour-long chat about her acting prospects and she calls a romantic dinner that ended in a sexual tryst, which Baldwin adamantly denies.



Baldwin

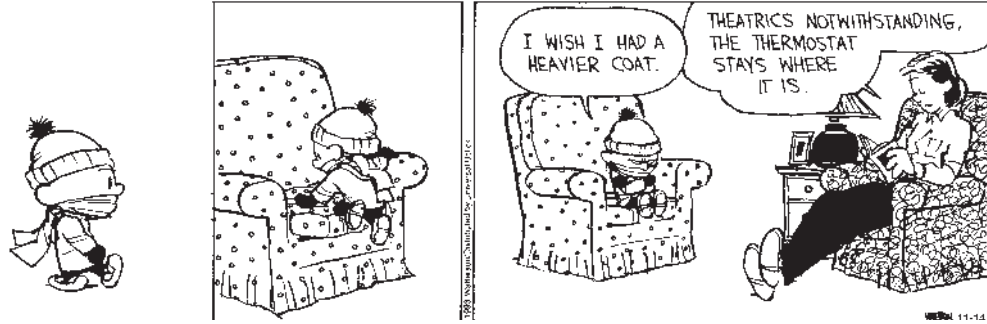
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

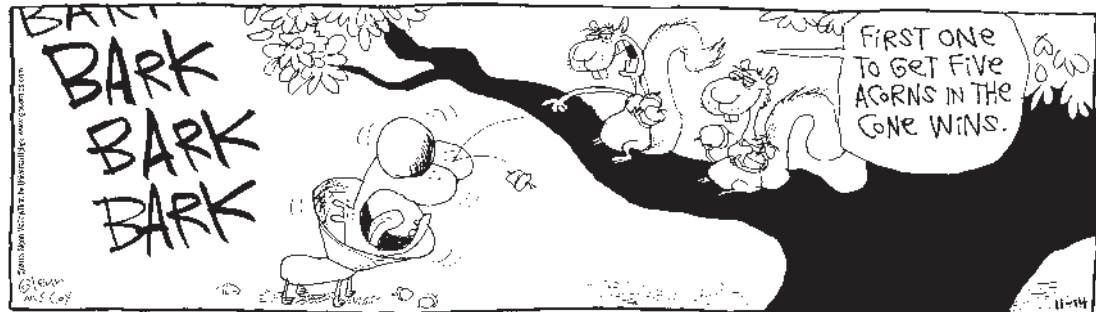
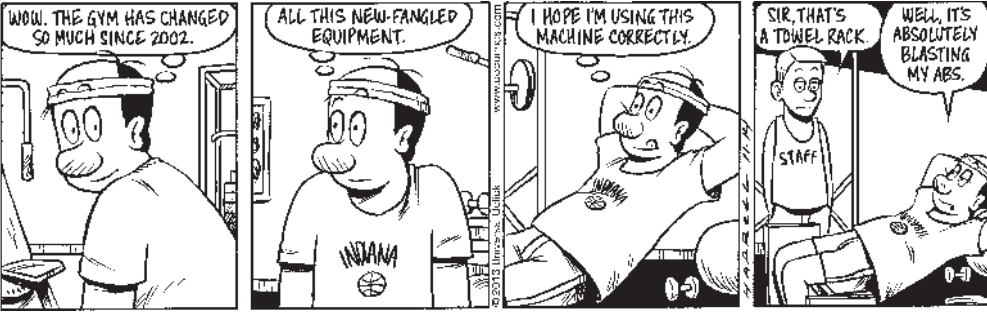


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Ear-related

5 Curved flight path

8 Water-front structure

12 Agenda heading

13 "Hum-bug!"

14 Destroy

15 Turnpike fee

16 "Science Guy" Bill

17 Press

18 Tense

20 A valley

22 Top-caliber

26 Chocolate source

29 Consume

30 Future syrup

31 Rhine tributary

32 Pickle container

33 Angry

34 Greek vowel

**35** — de deux

**36** Column style

**37** Filled with ennui

**40** Utah city

**41** Money-back offer

**45** Hodge-podge

**47** Eggs

**49** History chapters

**50** Nerd-pack contents

**51** Beak

**52** Broad-casts

**53** Wise one

**54** Type squares

**55** Scruff

**19** Sticky stuff

**21** Performance

**23** Rental contract

**24** Delhi dress

**25** Detail, for short

**26** Staff

**27** Car

**28** Entrancing

**32** Weapon for Samson

**33** Tofu provider

**35** Black-Berry, e.g.

**36** Anger

**38** Not at all snug

**39** Speedy steeds

**42** Met melody

**43** Rainout cover

**44** Being, to Brutus

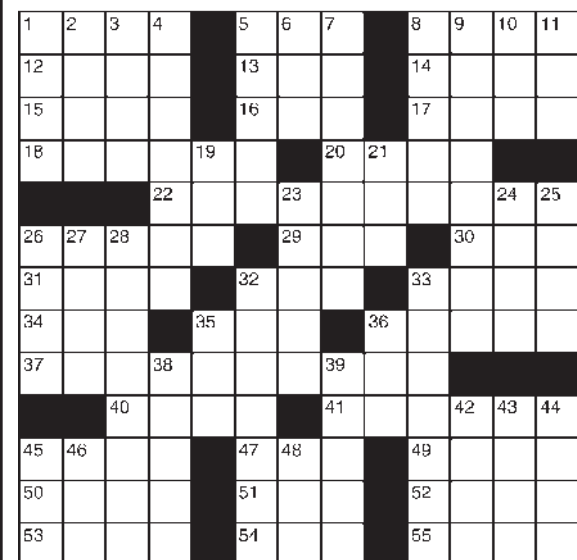
**45** Chances, for short

**46** Meadow

**48** Energy

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 11-14**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Travis Barker, 38; Josh Duhamel, 41; Patrick Warburton, 49; Harland Williams, 51.

**Happy Birthday:** Scale down and settle into a routine that will keep you safe from impulsive acts that may be costly. Look at all your options and refrain from letting anyone make choices for you. Take charge and be earnest about keeping life simple and moderate. The right decisions will lead to improvements that alleviate stress and lead to greater happiness. Your numbers are 5, 12, 23, 30, 36, 44, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Put your energy, not your cash, into new endeavors or partnerships. Be innovative, but practice moderation and discipline in all aspects of life. Problems will develop due to a power struggle. Don't get angry when efficiency is what's required. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Enjoy the comforts of home and family, or visit a destination you find relaxing. Sharing your ideas or contributing to something you feel strongly about will make what you have worked so hard to acquire that much more enjoyable. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't let disappointments lead you down a slippery slope. Calculate what it is you want and how you should best go about getting it. Being ready and willing to make an unexpected move will be necessary. Strive to excel. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A positive attitude and a healthy ego will attract attention and encourage you to participate in an interesting challenge. Broadening your scope

by indulging in conversations with experts will add to your charm. An important relationship offers stabilization and a loving environment. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Step out of the limelight and view what's going on around you. Size up the situation and make the changes required to compete in and win any challenge you face. Using emotional tactics will help you gain control and reach your goal. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Stay on top of a financial, medical or legal situation. Don't feel pressured to do something that sounds dubious. Discuss your options with someone you can trust, and if you feel uncertain, don't make a move. Romance will ease stress. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Tread carefully when dealing with personal matters that have the potential to disrupt your home or your current living situation. Keep your distance and refuse to overanalyze what's going on. Assumptions will lead to a poor decision. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** The knowledge you obtain through research or questioning experts or those privy to private information will help you make a vital decision regarding where you live and the lifestyle changes you make. You stand to prosper. Love looks inviting. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Open your doors to new acquaintances. Socializing with people who share your interests will help you move into a leadership position, which will boost your reputation. With control comes opposition; debate with finesse and intelligence, not brute force. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't live in the past when the present is so much more exciting. Turn what you have into an opportunity to reach for what you want. Give love and romance top priority. A stable relationship will make your success worthwhile. ★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Learn to say no. You have to divvy up your time according to the priorities you have in your life. Take care of the personal changes you need to make first. Taking on someone else's burden will not put you in a strong position. ★★★★★



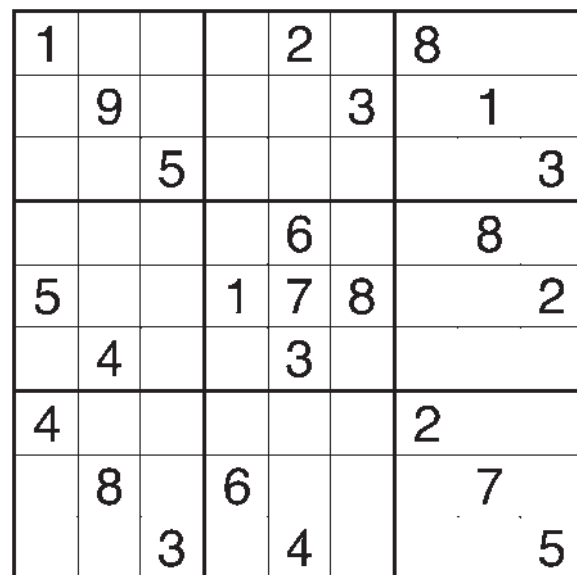
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Raise your self-esteem by following through with your plans. Share your thoughts and put together a budget. Your astute and clever way of exploiting what you have to offer will grab attention and lead to a formal proposal. ★★★  
**Birthday Baby:** You are eager and ambitious. You learn quickly and act fast.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



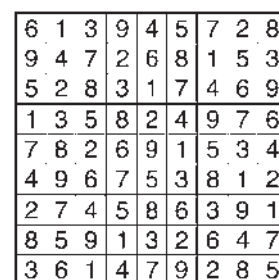
Difficulty Level ★★★

11/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

1/17

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SWEET 16 PARTIES

Solution: 7 letters



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Banner, Beverages, Cake, Casual, Cater, Corsage, Event, Family, Floral, Flowers, Formal, Friends, Games, Gifts, Grand Entrance, Guestbook, Hair, Heels, Heirlooms, Invitations, Invite, List, Love, Max, Menu, Milestone, Music, Outfit, Parents, Party, Ritual, Siblings, Slipper, Snack, Symbolic, Teen, Themes, Torch, Venue, Videographer  
**Yesterday's Answer: Vehicles**  
Purchase WONDERWORD books for the holidays! Visit [wonderword.universalclick.com](http://wonderword.universalclick.com) or call 1-800-642-6480.



# Jordan Hill leads Lakers' 116-95 rout of Pelicans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers' sixth starting lineup in nine games clicked from the opening tip, and Jordan Hill was the biggest reason for the flow.

Hill had a career-high 21 points and 11 rebounds in his first start of the season, and Pau Gasol added 14 points and eight rebounds in the Lakers' 116-95 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Tuesday night.

Nick Young scored 17 points for Los Angeles, which lost five of its last seven before trouncing the Pelicans, who beat them handily last week. The Lakers left New Orleans embarrassed by their effort, but they made up for it back home with likely their best all-around performance since a season-opening win over the Clippers.

"We've just got to do this every night, because we're not good enough to take any plays off," Hill said. "We've got to have that energy every time we step on the floor. That's what I try to bring whenever I'm there. I don't care if I'm starting."

With both members of the Lakers' decorated backcourt sidelined, Hill shined in his chance to join the Lakers' latest starting lineup. Steve Nash is out for at least two weeks with nerve problems in his back, while Kobe Bryant still hasn't returned to practice after surgery on his torn Achilles' tendon in April.

Jodie Meeks and Xavier Henry scored 15 points apiece for the Lakers, who led by 20 points in the first half before coasting to their 12th win in their last 13 regular-season meetings with New Orleans. Los Angeles' current lineup isn't festooned with stars, but coach Mike D'Antoni is hopeful his collection of role players will stay competitive in Kobe's absence.

"This is a good group of guys, (and) I think today they realized what it's going to take to win," D'Antoni said. "And they did it. I think Jordan Hill being in that first group helped everybody with his energy ... and then everybody picked it up."

After missing much of last season with hip woes, Hill seized his chance to contribute to the Lakers, surpassing his previous career high in points early in the third quarter. The fifth-year big man provided his usual energy and rebounding determination to Los Angeles, but supplemented it with an accurate shot and constant rolls to the basket, where his teammates repeatedly found him for scores.

"He's a good guy to lean on if you want a jolt of energy," D'Antoni said.

Los Angeles outrebounded New Orleans 53-31 and had 33 assists, including 10 from new starting point guard Steve Blake.

Eric Gordon scored 17 points for the Pelicans, who have lost on the first two stops of their



Los Angeles Lakers center Jordan Hill, left, puts up a shot as New Orleans Pelicans center Jeff Withey defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013, in Los Angeles.

three-game West Coast road trip. New Orleans' struggles practically mirrored the Lakers' poor effort in Louisiana last week, leaving coach Monty Williams frustrated.

"We just didn't go out there and play as hard as we had been playing," Williams said. "We had the same game plan against that team last week and held them to 85 points, but we just didn't execute tonight. When we got down, and as a young team, I think we let our offensive game affect our defense. It was just too easy for them."

Tyreke Evans had 11 points on 4-of-13 shooting after nearly sitting out with an ankle injury for the Pelicans, who snapped an 11-game losing streak in this series Friday. Anthony Davis, who scored a career-high 32 points in that win, had just 15 points in the rematch—nine in the fourth quarter.

"They just played harder than us," Davis said. "We were kind of slow and didn't have a lot of energy out there. I got in foul trouble early, and it's hard to play like that. I never got going."

Two days after giving up 47 first-quarter points to the Minnesota Timberwolves in a blowout home loss, the Lakers fared much better early on against New Orleans. Los Angeles opened the second quarter with a 22-5 run to take a 20-point lead, pushing it to 28 in the second half.

Lou Amundson debuted for the Pelicans, scoring three points while playing in a No. 17 jersey that didn't have his name on the back. New Orleans boosted its frontcourt depth by signing the UNLV product Tuesday along with Josh Childress, who didn't play.

## Heat 118, Bucks 95

In Miami, LeBron James scored 33 points and sat out the fourth quarter, while Michael Beasley scored 19 off the bench as the Miami Heat had little trouble in beating the Milwaukee Bucks.

Mario Chalmers finished with 15 points and seven assists for the Heat, whose previous biggest victory margin

was a 12-point triumph over Chicago on opening night. Chris Bosh scored 10 for Miami (5-3).

John Henson and Gary Neal each scored 18 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 11 for Milwaukee—all three of them putting up those points off the Bucks' bench. Caron Butler was the only double-digit-scoring starter for the Bucks (2-4), finishing with 10.

ishing with 10.

Miami played without Udonis Haslem (back) and Ray Allen (ill). Shane Battier started in Haslem's place.

## Mavericks 105, Wizards 95

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had 19 points to pass Jerry West on the NBA's career scoring list and help Dallas beat Washington.

Nowitzki hit consecutive

# Scandal, latest loss have Dolphins fans fed up

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)—Miami Dolphins fans are venting on Twitter and complaining on radio about the team owner, the coach, the general manager and even the backup left guard.

A harassment scandal and a loss to a winless team can have that effect.

Already staggered by a scandal that prompted an NFL investigation, the Dolphins must now try to bounce back from their worst loss of the season.

Rather than taking out their frustrations of recent days on the hapless Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Dolphins came out flat Monday night, dug a 15-0 hole and lost 22-19.

The loss left the Dolphins at 4-5, with the five defeats coming in the past six games. Fed-up fans took the latest loss hard, and many said owner Stephen Ross should fire everyone, himself included.

"I'm happy fans are passionate," second-year coach Joe Philbin said Tuesday. "We have a loyal fan base. We all want the same thing. We want to have a team that is consistently competing for championships and represents the organization the right way on and off the field."

With the harassment case involving offensive linemen Jonathan Martin and Richie Incognito likely to remain unresolved

for at least a couple of weeks, Philbin will try to salvage the season beginning Sunday at home against San Diego.

Philbin, now 11-14 at Miami, won a vote of confidence before Monday's game from Ross, but that could change depending on the findings of Ted Wells, the NFL special investigator.

Wells will meet this week with Martin, who is with his family in Los Angeles and receiving counseling for emotional issues.

Ross also plans to meet with Martin. That meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday, but at the NFL's request it has been postponed until after Wells gets together with Martin.

The second-year pro suddenly left the team two weeks ago, and his attorney has alleged Martin was harassed daily by teammates, including Incognito, who has been suspended.

On Monday, Ross announced the formation of two committees to examine the Dolphins' locker room culture. In recent days, players have been virtually unanimous in saying it doesn't need to be changed.

"I think it was more a situation between a couple of guys," linebacker Philip Wheeler said Tuesday. "I don't think it was a locker room situation."

"I've had a great time in this locker room so far," fourth-year defensive lineman Jared Odrick said, "and I think most people see it the same."

The case inspired a national debate about workplace bullying, attracting a throng of media again Tuesday. The team, however, declined to blame the case on its latest loss.

"Yes, we faced a lot of distractions," quarterback Ryan Tannehill said, "but leading up to this game, the last few days I've had a good feeling that the guys were ready to play."

A bigger factor might have been the absence of two starters in a line that was already lousy.

Tampa, the Dolphins netted a franchise record-low 2 yards in 14 carries.

That's 5.1 inches per carry. At that rate, they would need 71 carries to get a first down.

"Five inches?" offensive coordinator Mike Sherman said. "That's disheartening."

Nate Garner whiffed on several blocks filling in for Incognito at left guard, and no one on the line seemed to get any push downfield.

"Not a good job by us," right tackle Tyson Clabo said.

There are plenty of other issues. Run defense is supposedly the team's strength, but Mi-

3-pointers late in the third quarter, the second one putting him at 25,194 points for 16th place, two ahead of West.

Trevor Ariza led the Wizards with 27 points, including five 3-pointers. He also had seven rebounds and four steals.

Monta Ellis started slowly from the field before scoring 10 in the fourth quarter to help the Mavericks improve to 4-0 at home this season. Ellis matched Nowitzki with 19.

Nowitzki ended up 8 of 19 from the field with eight rebounds, two assists and steals. He has 25,197 points for his career. Reggie Miller is 15th on the scoring list with 25,279 points.

## Warriors 113, Pistons 95

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry had 25 points and eight assists to help Golden State build a 19-point first-quarter lead before sitting out the final 12 minutes of the win over Detroit.

David Lee added 17 points and nine rebounds, while Klay Thompson had 14 points for the Warriors, who have won five straight over the Pistons.

Curry scored 12 points as part of a 19-4 run in the third quarter then sat out the entire fourth quarter when Golden State coach Mark Jackson emptied his bench.

Detroit's Andre Drummond had 16 points and 14 rebounds for his second straight double-double and fourth in seven games.

ami allowed 140 yards on the ground against the injury-riddled Bucs, whose fourth-string running back scored the decisive touchdown. The Dolphins have sunk to 25th in the league in run defense.

Tannehill played well but misfired on a long pass to an open Mike Wallace, who was targeted seven times and totaled 15 yards.

The \$60 million receiver still has only one touchdown this season. First-round pick Dion Jordan was also a non-factor again at linebacker, playing only nine snaps on defense.

While the scoreboard in Tampa argued otherwise, Tannehill said the harassment case unified the team. He predicted the Dolphins will yet bounce back.

"I feel like we've really come together over this adversity," he said. "This could've gone two ways: Guys could split up and take sides by dividing the locker room, or we could come together. ...

"Life is full of adversity. Not everyone deals with a situation like this, but you have to be able to face it. The old adage: As many times a horse knocks you off, you get back on. That's the mentality I have, and that's the mentality I think this team has, and we've just got to keep going."

# Managers of the Year: Terry Francona, Clint Hurdle

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Two championships and eight successful seasons in Boston brought Terry Francona exactly zero first-place votes in Manager of the Year balloting.

It took him one year with the surprising Cleveland Indians to bag the prize.

Francona and Clint Hurdle of the Pittsburgh Pirates won the Manager of the Year awards Tuesday after guiding their small-budget teams to charming turnarounds.

In a close vote by the Baseball Writers' Association of America panel, Francona edged old friend John Farrell of the World Series champion Red Sox 112 points to 96 for the American League honor.

"I have a feeling he wouldn't trade what they did for this any day of the week," Francona said on a conference call from Tucson, Ariz.

Hurdle was a runaway winner in the NL, selected first on 25 of 30 ballots after taking the Pirates to the playoffs in their first winning season since 1992.

"It is so rewarding for me to see what's happened, the synergy in the city," Hurdle said in Pittsburgh. "To be a small part of a group that's able to bring joy at so many different levels—that's what's rewarding to me in life."

It was the first Manager of the Year award for Francona even though—in an interesting twist—he steered the Red Sox to World Series titles in 2004 and 2007. During his initial season with the Indians, he directed them to a 24-win improvement and a late surge that produced their first playoff berth in six years.

Cleveland lost the AL wild-card game to Tampa Bay, but voting is conducted before the postseason.

Francona said he called Farrell, a long-time colleague and his former pitching coach in Boston, on Tuesday morning because he thought it was funny they were up against each other as finalists.

If they heard such news years ago, Francona said, "both of us would have laughed each other out of the room."

Hurdle also was quick with a self-deprecating joke after he won.

"There's guys laughing all over the place," he said in an interview on MLB Network. "The players know so many times this season we'd have a big series, getting together just trying to break the ice I'd tell them, 'Hey, look guys, you've got to step it up, play big this week because I'm going to get outmanaged. I can tell you one thing that's going to happen: I'll get outmanaged. So really step it up.' And they did. They believed me every series."

Just like Francona, the



In this June 24, 2013, photo, Cleveland Indians manager Terry Francona talks to reporters before the Indians' baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Baltimore.

56-year-old Hurdle won Manager of the Year for the first time. His highest finish had been third in 2007, when he led Colorado to the World Series.

Don Mattingly of the NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers came in second and Fredi Gonzalez of the NL East champion Atlanta Braves was third.

"I'm grateful," Hurdle said. "But it's kind of weird."

The only other Pittsburgh manager to win was Jim Leyland in 1990 and 1992, the bookends to three consecutive division titles for the Pirates.

After that, they endured a record 20 straight losing seasons—the longest drought in any of the four major professional sports—before going 94-68 this year to capture an NL wild card.

Riding a wave of excitement from a rejuvenated fan base in a city finally enthralled by baseball again, Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati in the wild-card game before losing to league champion St. Louis in a division series that went the full five games.

"I know we're scratching the surface of something that's dynamic," said Hurdle, who has managed the Pirates for three seasons.

Hurdle was chosen second on the other five ballots and was the only manager picked on every one. He had 140 points in the 5-3-1 scoring system to 68 for Mattingly, who received two first-place votes. Gonzalez got three firsts and 43 points.

Mike Matheny of the Cardinals was the only other skipper to appear on an NL ballot. He was tabbed second by four

voters and third by seven.

The 54-year-old Francona garnered 16 first-place votes to 12 for Farrell, who lifted the Red Sox from last place to

first in the AL East in his debut season as their manager. Boston won 97 games, tied for most in the majors, one year after going 69-93 under Bobby

Valentine.

Bob Melvin, last year's winner, received the other two first-place votes and came in third after his low-payroll

## Steinbrenner concerned about Jeter's recovery

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—Hal Steinbrenner is concerned about Derek Jeter's recovery from a broken ankle but is confident the New York Yankees captain will return to his form prior to the injury 13 months ago.

Jeter broke his left ankle on Oct. 13, 2012, during the AL championship series opener against Detroit. He didn't return until July 11 and wound up on the disabled list three more times because of quadriceps and calf injuries and what appeared to be ankle pain. He appeared in only 13 games at shortstop and four at designated hitter, and he'll turn 40 next June.

"Given his age and given the severity of the injury, I think we all have concerns," Steinbrenner, the team's managing general partner, said Tuesday night after arriving for Major League Baseball meetings. "But if anybody is going to succeed, it's going to be Derek. Nobody is tougher, and nobody is going to work harder to get back."

"But given his age and given what the injury was—you know, it's not a Grade 1 quad strain, this is a fairly serious injury. So are there concerns? Yes. But we're also confident that he's going to come back to be the player he was a couple years ago."

New York and the 13-time All-Star shortstop agreed Nov. 3 to a \$12 million, one-year contract, a deal worth \$2.5 million more than the player option pending from his previous con-

tract.

"Given what Derek has meant to the organization and means to the organization, all I'm going to say is both sides needed to be comfortable with a number," Steinbrenner said. "We needed to come up with a number that both sides thought was fair, and that's what we did."

In the talks leading to the agreement, the sides never discussed beyond 2014.

"I don't know that Derek has thought that far," Steinbrenner said. "He's got a lot of thinking to do just getting to March, you know what I mean? And I think that's his focus right now."

New York also is uncertain about its third baseman. Alex Rodriguez was suspended for 211 games by MLB on Aug. 5 for alleged violations of its drug agreement and labor contract, and the players' association filed a grievance to overturn the penalty. Hearings resume next week, and arbitrator Fredric Horowitz may not rule until January.

"Right now, we're assuming Alex is going to be our starting third baseman," Steinbrenner said. "Time will tell."

Steinbrenner has not spoken with A-Rod since before the player went to Triple-A Scranton for a minor league rehab assignment last summer.

In addition to the grievance, Rodriguez filed separate lawsuits against MLB and Yankees team physician Dr. Christopher

Ahmad, claiming his hip injury wasn't properly diagnosed. Steinbrenner said Ahmad would "absolutely" treat Rodriguez if there's an injury "as far as I know."

"Anybody can get a second opinion," he added. "Most of them do."

Rodriguez has a \$25 million salary next year and could earn an additional \$6 million payment if he hits six home runs and ties Willie Mays at 660. Steinbrenner isn't concerned about the uncertainty.

"Even with Alex as our third baseman, we've got a fair amount of money to start spending to try to fill the holes, and that's what we're going to do," he said. "We all worry, but I try not to worry about things I can't control, and I can't control that process."

Steinbrenner expects talks will resume in the next week with second baseman Robinson Cano, who became a free agent and has sought a 10-year deal in excess of \$300 million.

"We haven't really had any communications regarding any specifics yet," he said.

New York also is interested in pitcher Masahiro Tanaka, who went 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA during the regular season for the Rakuten Golden Eagles of Japan's Pacific League. The 25-year-old right-hander may become available if MLB and Nippon Professional Baseball agree to a new deal to replace

Oakland Athletics won their second consecutive AL West crown.

Francona never received a first-place vote during eight seasons as manager of the Red Sox. He had never finished higher than fourth for this award in 12 years as a big league skipper, including his stint with Philadelphia.

After a messy split from the Red Sox following their 2011 collapse, Francona spent a year in broadcasting that he said helped him become more patient and less stubborn.

This season with the Indians was among his most fun in baseball, he said, and he loves the people he works for because when challenges arise "we tackle them together."

"Boston is, you're not really supposed to ever lose a game, and that's difficult to do," Francona said, adding the job there is "to manage all the noise that's around the team so the guys can play."

"You can't have all that passion and not have some of the headaches that come with it," he explained. "It's a little different in Cleveland because it's more just baseball, which I enjoy."

Cy Young Award winners will be announced Wednesday evening, and MVPs on Thursday.

the expired posting system for bidding by big league teams.

"We certainly like him. He's a great player, without a doubt," Steinbrenner said. "I'm sure there will be numerous teams in on him. He'd be a great, great catch for anybody."

Steinbrenner also said the Yankees had made changes to their player development system without altering the top officials. Jody Reed has been hired as a roving minor league instructor, a task also given to Gil Patterson. There will be changes in the way scouts work.

"It's really easy to say, 'Get rid of this guy. Get rid of this guy. And get rid of that guy.' And there are certainly some owners that might do that," said Steinbrenner, whose father, George, acted that way for much of his tenure as owner.

"But that doesn't always solve the problem. Sometimes it's procedural or process, the way scouts influence each other because they're talking too much to each other—somebody has a preconception about a player they haven't even seen yet because they've talked to two scouts about them and they go in to go see the player with those preconceptions," he said. "So those are the kind of things we're working on, communication. We're teaching the scouts. We're going to teach them to look for different things, maybe things they haven't looked at before."

# 4 teams enjoy comfortable leads in SEDA league



Players of Joe's Ridin' Darryt pose for a photo before their game in the Flame Tree B division of the SEDA Bud Light Dart League late last month.

Four squads are way ahead of their closest rivals in the 2013 SEDA Bud Light Dart League. In the Masters division, the Jokers Destroyers holds a 120-67 record to pace Sand Jucy Pythons, which have a 99-88 mark. Rounding out the group are Jokers Fantastic Baby (98-89) and Bammy D'Executioner (57-30).

In the A division, 11 wins separated SOS Mixblood Shooters I from second-running Oceanside Sakude, as the former owns a 119-68 slate against the latter's 108-76. Sandy Juvy Outlawz is in third place with its 99-88 record, followed by Bammyss Sabalu (98-89), Sandy Juvy 101 Proofers (96-91), Sand Juvy Predators (93-94), Bammyss Taya Guaha 2 (92-95), Sand Juvy Bud Brothers (81-106), Sand Juvy Peskadots (79-108), and Sandy Juvy's Salbahes (70-117).

In the Tuesday B division, Sandy Juvy Zyndikato holds

## Fast-pitch softball meeting Nov. 27

The CNMI Softball Association would like to inform interested teams and sponsors that the association is planning to open the 2013 Island-wide Fast-pitch Softball League on Dec. 1.

Entrance fee is \$800 for each team competing in the men's and women's divisions. Deadline for payment and submission of rosters is set for Nov. 27. The association will also hold a meeting on the same date at 5:30pm at the pavilion inside the Oleai Sports Complex. The final ground rules, schedule of games, and other concerns will be discussed at the Nov. 27 meeting.

For more information, contact Piding Tenorio at 285-1024 or 323-8666 or John Maratita at 256-7363 or 288-6901. (PR)

a 132-33 record for 29-win lead over sister team Sand Juvy D'Mekaniks (103-62), Oceanside US Guys completes the Top 3 with its 97-69. Other teams competing in the division are Jokers Welbwu Shots (94-71), Naked Fish Oneshot (91-74), Sand Juvy No Fear (85-80), Jokers Chenilar Kimberlu (81-84), Oleai Stingers (76-79), and Joe's Bar Dutty Hunz (60-105).

Also enjoying a comfortable margin in its group is Flame Tree B leader Oceanside Kyodai, who has a 110-55 mark. Joe's Ridin Darryt is in second place with a 97-68 slate, followed by SOS Mixblood Shooters III (96-69), Jokers

Skorgazzums (91-74), Jokers Cripplers II (86-79), Sandu Juvy Darts Balas (84-81), Naked Fish Na'Gupu (84-81), Sand Juvy Try Luck 2 (66-99), Oleai Naughty Boyz (59-106), and Jokers Platinum (52-113).

Meanwhile, the three other divisions in the SEDA league have close battles for first place.

In the Ladies division, Jokers Try Luck Angels is ahead by only four wins against Jokers Hotties Yuppies, as the former holds a 119-46 record against the 114-51 slate of the latter. SOS Avengers is in distance third with a 71-84, while Jonny's Mixed Nutz (66-69) and Jokers Daffodils (59-106) oc-

cupy the fourth and fifth spots, respectively.

In the C division, Jokers Cripplers earned a 116-49 mark to pace Oceanside Hunters (112-53). Completing the field are Oceanside Sparks (81-84), Jokers Assasins (79-86), Naked Fish FSU (75-90), Sand

Juvy Dart-A-Holics (74-91), Oceanside Shakers (73-92), SOS Dart Knights (72-93), and Jokers Team Gua'fi (64-101).

In the Tuesday B division, SOS Mixvlood Shooters II and Sand Juvy Havy Hill 4 Fun are in the Top 2, holding 106-59 and 103-62 records, respec-

tively. Joining them in the team standings are Oceanside Aliens Pride (99-66), Sand Juvy Gilas Boyz (96-69), Jonny's Naught Boyz (94-71), Naked Fish Na'Gupu II (89-76), Oleai Dartaholics (83-82), and Joe's Serial Killaz (82-83). (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

## PIKABOO

From Page 28

Alvarez said that before he had difficulty controlling his emotions. "I was always hyped up but now I've learned how to keep my emotions in check and stay focused in every fight. I have also learned how to be more precise with my attacks."

During his fight against Orais, Alvarez, after a successful take down with still three minutes and six seconds left in the clock, mounted Orais and pounded his opponent to

submission by Kimura choke with still 2:38 to go in the first round.

The 20-year-old, who trained for more than three months, was a bit in a bind early in the three-round match after Orais landed a number of combinations that rocked him and a reddish mass was also already forming on his face.

But the 5'9" Trench Tech Saipan warrior, despite nursing a cut on his nose bridge, rebounded and managed to take down Orais then finished off his opponent on the ground.

"I thought the first round would end with both of us taking the fight standing up. He landed some good shots on my body and face that opened a cut on my nose. But I stayed composed and when I saw an opening to take him down," said Alvarez who improved his MMA record to 9-1.

"My plan was really to take him down and end the fight on the ground. I pounded him a little bit before I managed to crank his right arm and he later tapped after he hurt his left arm. I learned that he dislocated his left arm, maybe after I

## SIBLING

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on the champions circle in the girls singles were Thea Minor, Julia Ishikawa, and Malika Miyawaki.

Miyawaki notched two wins in the girls U12 singles en route to ruling the five-team field. She drew a bye in the opening round before sweeping Couge Kaga in the semifinals, 6-1, 6-2, to set up a title showdown against Asia Raulerson, a 6-3, 6-3 victor over Conatsu Caga in the other Final Four tiff. In the finals,

Miyawaki was still unstoppable as she also took only two sets to finish off Raulerson, 6-2, 6-2. In the battle for third place, Conatsu dominated sister Coume, 8-2.

Ishikawa made short work of Tania Tan, too, in the girls U14 championship game, 6-2, 6-1. Ishikawa marched into the semis after eliminating Ami Tsukagoshi in the semis last Saturday, 6-1, 6-4, while Tan needed two victories to secure the second and last finals berth. Tan outclassed Mimi Sakano in last Friday's Round of 8, 6-1, 6-3, and then

swept Liza Atalig in the semis, 6-2, 6-1.

In girls U18 finals, Minor topped Mikayla Lopez, 6-1, 6-3. Minor got a bye in the opening round and booked a finals ticket after a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Carol Lee, a 6-0, 6-0 winner versus Alina Ishikawa in the quarterfinals.

Lopez also drew a bye in the opening round before prevailing over Negahr Rastguay in the semifinals in the lower half bracket. Rastguay bagged a semis berth after cruising to a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Margaux San Nicolas.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	4	4	.500	—
Boston	4	4	.500	—
Toronto	3	5	.375	1
New York	2	4	.333	1
Brooklyn	2	4	.333	1

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	5	3	.625	—
Atlanta	4	3	.571	½
Charlotte	3	4	.429	1½
Orlando	3	5	.375	2
Washington	2	5	.286	2½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	8	0	1.000	—
Chicago	3	3	.500	4
Cleveland	3	5	.375	5
Milwaukee	2	4	.333	5
Detroit	2	5	.286	5½

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	7	1	.875	—
Houston	5	3	.625	2
Dallas	5	3	.625	2
Memphis	3	4	.429	3½
New Orleans	3	5	.375	4

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	5	1	.833	—
Portland	5	2	.714	½
Minnesota	5	3	.625	1
Denver	2	4	.333	3
Utah	0	8	.000	6

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	5	2	.714	—
L.A. Clippers	5	3	.625	½
Golden State	5	3	.625	½
L.A. Lakers	4	5	.444	2
Sacramento	1	5	.167	3½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## KB

From Page 28

match and drew clutch baskets from Darwin Barbo and Brendon Talania to nose out Mobil in the battle for the fourth and last semis berth.

Mobil absorbed the heart-breaking loss despite leading by 3 points, 86-83, in the last 1:23 of the game off Gyles Ruloked's and-1 play. Ruloked broke the last deadlock of the match when he received a drop pass from Jun Estolas from the 15-foot line and drew a foul from Darwin Barbo underneath the basket.

Down by 3, Pando Muleta tried to retaliate quickly, but faced two Mobil defenders when he made a spin move toward the basket and was forced to throw an errant pass, which Freddie Pelisamen intercepted. Fortunately for KB Market, Muleta redeemed himself from the boo-boo when he telegraphed an entry pass to Pelisamen in the ensuing play, paving the way for the team's fastbreak play. Ivan Devero went for the fastbreak layup, but missed. However, KB Market was lucky anew, as Barbo plucked the offensive board and drew a foul on Jorge De Guzman on his way for a

putback. Barbo calmly sank both crucial charities, moving KB Market within a point, 52.7 seconds left on the clock.

With a shaky lead, Mobil went to its main man, Estolas, who drove from the right baseline, but decided to kick the ball out as KB Market defenders shut the door on him. Again, KB Market intercepted the feed with Devero picking up the ball and throwing an outlet past to Talania, who was way ahead of everybody and drilled the go-ahead basket, 87-86, with 27.4 seconds remaining in the game.

Mobil sued for time and when the game resumed, the ball went to Estolas anew with the veteran guard this time scanning the floor first from the left key with Devero and Leo Galarse guarding him. Estolas then started his move, dribbling to his right before spinning to his left, but Galarse was there to pick his pocket, tapping the ball, which Devero eventually picked up.

Devero ran to their front court and dribbled out some time before getting the ball over to Junar Guiab, who was finally fouled by Mobil with 7.6 seconds left on the clock. Guiab muffed both free throws, keeping Mobil's hopes alive, as coach Marvin Deocares' wards

also got the possession back with Barbo touching the ball last after Guaib's second miss.

Mobil called a timeout anew for its final offensive set that started with Errol Peredo making the inbound and passing the leather to Estolas, who again was stopped by Devero and Galarse on his way to the left baseline. Estolas was forced to return the ball to Peredo, who pulled up for a triple and missed. After the muffed shot, KB Market thought the game was over and forgot to box out Ruloked, who got the offensive board and pulled up for a turnaround jumper from the baseline. The shot hit the right side of the rim and seemed to be bouncing back to the basket, but Ruloked did not get the lucky bounce, giving KB Market players a sigh of relief.

Mobil was ousted despite taking a promising 23-10 advantage at the end of the first quarter. Bart Demapan and Peredo teamed up in Mobil's good start with the latter firing 11 points and the former adding 8. However, Peredo and Demapan saw limited minutes in the second half where the match became a seesaw battle, as KB Market drew help from Devero, Muleta, and Galarse to

get back into the game.

Muleta top-scored for KB Market with his 17 points, while Galarse and Devero chipped in 15 and 14, respectively, to make up for the absence of Elmer Esdreton. Esdreton sat out the opening minutes of the second canto due to an injury after scoring only 2 points. Demapan led Mobil's losing cause, drilling 16 points, but was held to only one field goal in the second half. Peredo finished with 14 and also had only one basket in the final 20 minutes of play.

Meanwhile, the semifinal round will be played today with KB Market challenging the undefeated and top-ranked AXE Proa in the second Final Four match at 8pm after the semis tussle between I Love Ladder Beach and the Hoopaholics at 6:30pm.

**KB Market 87** — Muleta 17, Galarse 15, Devero 14, Talania 12, Barbo 11, Guiab 7, De Dios 4, Berline 3, Esdreton 2, Aquino 2.

**Mobil/JP World 86** — Demapan 16, Estolas 16, Peredo 14, Pelisamen 12, Ruloked 11, De Guzman 10, Kaipat 3, Gamboa 2, Olaitiman 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 10-23, 36-39, 63-65, 87-86.

# Pacific Islands Club Road Race

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Seiya Eda nears the finish line of the 10K event in last Sunday's PIC Road Race.



Mieko Carey smiles as loud cheers greeted her at the finish line.



Wellington Ang gets hi-fives from volunteers on his way to the 10K finish line.



A female half marathon runner cruises past the Saipan Community School.



Robin Sapong shows his race number to timers.



Florence Antonio celebrates his finish.



Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel heads for a second place finish in his age group in the 10K race.



10K top finisher Charles Epperson cools down after the race.



Laura Saiki heads to the 10K finish line.



Pacific Islands Club's Evan Hunsberger nears completion of the 10K race.



**Jordan Hill  
leads Lakers'  
116-95 rout of  
Pelicans  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Managers  
of the  
Year: Terry  
Francona,  
Clint Hurdle  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 'Pikaboo' triumphant in PXC 41

By JON PEREZ  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**P**ASIG CITY, Philippines—Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez is slowly coming out of the shadows of his father Cuki, who is considered to be the father of mixed martial in the CNMI, and is making his own mark in the world of MMA.

Cuki started as a wrestler before transitioning into MMA. He holds a 4-0 record since scoring a technical knockout win over Billy Ada on Dec. 10, 2005.

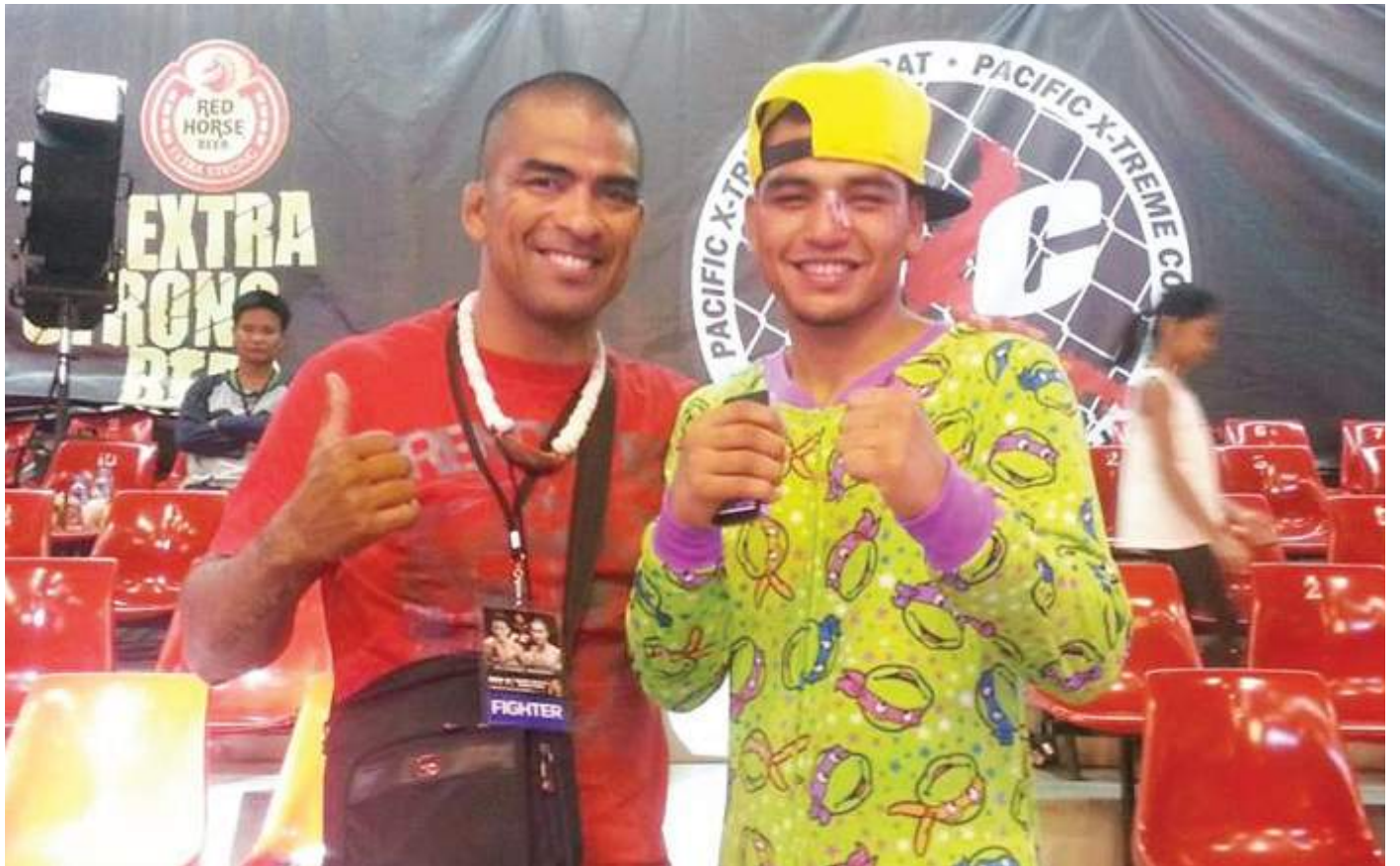
The younger Alvarez admits that he was pressured at first to follow the footsteps of his father, who successfully organized Trench Warz and Rites of Passage through Trench Tech Saipan.

"You have to be good since a lot of people know my father's reputation. At first I was

pressured and I also look up to him since he played a big role on me being an MMA fighter," said Alvarez moments after beating Filipino bet Rodel "Kid" Oraiz in their 135-lb bout in the Pacific X-treme Combat 41 last Saturday at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

"I always want to impress him (Cuki). He was my inspiration that's why I always try my best every time I fight. If I lose, bounce back in the next fight."

**See PIKABOO on Page 26**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, right, poses with his father Cuki before his fight against Filipino bet Rodel "Kid" Oraiz in Pacific X-treme Combat 41 last Saturday at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

## Sibling rivalry in U10 finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Ojima siblings duelled for the championship in the girls U10 singles of the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic 2013 with Hana outclassing sister Riko, 6-4, in last Monday's finals match at the Kanoa Resort tennis courts.

The Ojima sisters arranged their title game after eliminating separate semis foes over the weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Riko first made it to the championship match after ousting Susan Sablan, 6-3, last Saturday. Sablan advanced to the semis of the top half of the bracket after downing Maaya Sato last Friday at Kanoa, 6-3, while Riko prevailed over Ellie Epley, 6-4.

In the lower half of the bracket, Hana won over Erika Tuttle in last Friday's quarterfinals, 6-4, and then topped Maria Gregoire in last Sunday's semis to force a family affair in the girls U10 singles finals. Gregoire ended up settling for third place after beating Sablan in the consolation match, 6-4.

Meanwhile, joining Hana  
**See SIBLING on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hana Ojima returns to Maria Gregoire during their semis game in the girls U10 singles division of the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic 2013 last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

## KB Market eliminates Mobil



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

KB Market's Ivan Devero, right, and Leo Galarse, double-team Mobil/JP World's Jun Estolas during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the UFO Open caging last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

KB Market pulled off a nail-biting 87-86 win over Mobil/JP World last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gym-



nasium to catch the last bus en route to the semifinal round of the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Open Division Basketball League.

KB Market made a couple of defensive stops in the final two minutes of the back-and-forth  
**See KB on Page 26**